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FEMALE STABILITY:

OR, THE

H I S T O R Y

O F

MISS BELVILLE.

VOLUME III.

17

to with printing

FEMALE STABILITY

OF THE

MISFORTUNES

MISREVERIES

VOLUME II

FEMALE STABILITY:

OR, THE

H I S T O R Y

O F

MISS BELVILLE.

I N A

SERIES OF LETTERS.

BY THE LATE

MISS PALMER.

V O L. III.

L O N D O N :

Printed for F. NEWBERRY, the Corner of
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FRANCIS STAMMILL

OF THE

HISTORICAL

OF

MISS BELVILLE



SERIES

MISS BELVILLE

VOLUME

LONDON

Printed for E. Newman, the General
of the Church of England

MUSEUM

FEMALE STABILITY:

OR, THE

HISTORY of *Miss* BELVILLE.

Mrs. FRANKLY to the Right Honourable
Earl of BROMFIELD.

Queen's College, Oxford.

" My Lord,

" IT is with a mixed sensation of pleasure
" and pain I set down to give you the follow-
" ing account; but as the suppression of what
" has come to my knowledge may be attended
" with disagreeable consequences, I am re-
" solved to inform you of it. I feel for your
" Lordship and your good Lady on this occa-
" sion; but I should not discharge my duty to
" you nor to my conscience, without proceed-
" ing in this manner. I must wave the con-
" sideration of giving you a temporary pain,
" that good may be produced from it.

A 3

" Since

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“ Since the return of the young gentlemen
“ to Oxford, I had observed Lord William
“ cultivated more assiduously than before his ac-
“ quaintance with men of a gay and dissipated
“ turn, to say no more of them ; he kept late
“ hours, and frequently was concerned with
“ them in riots. Mr. Grenville observed it
“ with sorrow, and mildly remonstrated with
“ his brother on his excesses ; but, as he told
“ me, without effect. Lord William always
“ laughed at him, and called him grave pedant ;
“ bid him confine his observations to his musty
“ books, and not trouble his head with what
“ his elder brother did ; that he would have
“ him know, he was not to be bridled within a
“ few ridiculous rules, and would not be con-
“ troul’d by any man living. This behaviour
“ to the amiable youth gave him the greatest
“ concern, and he consulted with me what me-
“ thod we could adopt to save Lord William
“ from ruin. I had not yet spoke to his Lord-
“ ship about his conduct, but now determined
“ to reprimand him properly. Accordingly I
“ did so, with the utmost gentleness I could as-
“ sume, but he treated me in the most disre-
“ spectful manner ; accused his brother of
“ having told what passed between them ; said
“ that he would not be governed by any prag-
“ matical person or insolent stripling in Eng-
“ land. This speech enraged Mr. Grenville
“ and

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“ and I feared they would have quarrelled. He
 “ told my Lord, that let him treat him in ever
 “ so ungenerous a manner, he had no right to
 “ level the same at me: that, as a gentleman,
 “ and one their father had thought proper to
 “ invest with a power over them, I was in-
 “ titled to respect, and observance; and if none
 “ of these considerations had effect, the cloth
 “ I wore should protect me from insults. Pro-
 “ voked at this, Lord William left the room,
 “ swearing he would not be called to an ac-
 “ count by either of us. Thus we went on for
 “ some time, endeavouring, by mild methods,
 “ to reclaim him, but without effect; he grew
 “ worse, spent his money in the greatest ex-
 “ travagance, and followed every abandoned
 “ course; while his amiable brother applied to
 “ his studies with the utmost diligence, never
 “ spending his time in idle company; and em-
 “ ployed his money in the noblest purposes.

“ I would have informed your Lordship be-
 “ fore of our situation, had not Mr. Grenville
 “ begged I would not, as it would only give
 “ you pain, and perhaps make Lord William
 “ desperate. He had contracted many debts,
 “ which Mr. Grenville gave him large sums to
 “ discharge, that his honour might not be call-
 “ ed in question. But this exquisite generosity
 “ had no other effect than to occasion him to
 “ plunge farther in vice: as he could be sup-

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“plied with money, he did not care from
 “whence it came. Some days ago Mr. Gren-
 “ville was absent many hours, which, as it
 “was not customary with him, a little alarm-
 “ed me. When he returned, he walked hastily
 “to his bureau, and after looking in it some
 “time, coloured as deep as scarlet: he locked
 “it, and seated himself. After a little hesita-
 “tion, ‘Mr. Frankley, (said he) I should be
 “greatly obliged to you, if you would lend
 “me fifty guineas on a particular occasion: I
 “thought I had much more than that sum,
 “but I forgot I gave it my brother this morn-
 “ing.’ I immediately fetched it to him; and
 “he went out, but soon returned.. ‘I have
 “disposed of your money already; (said he)
 “and I dare say you are desirous of knowing
 “how.’ I assured him I should be very happy
 “to be honoured with his confidence; and af-
 “ter enjoining me not to speak of it to any
 “body, he told me the following particulars;
 “(and as Mr. Grenville is desirous it should
 “not be known, I beg your Lordship will not
 “mention it). ‘This morning, (said he) I
 “met a man in the fields, who appeared, by
 “his manner and gestures, to be in distress:
 “he walked some time near me, without seem-
 “ing to know there was a mortal by him. He
 “frequently talked to himself; but I could
 “not distinguish what he said. At last a
 pretty

“ pretty woman came towards him; and seem-
 “ ed, by her motions, to wish to comfort
 “ him; he turned from her:—‘ Go home;
 “ Jenny; (cried he aloud) I have undone you;
 “ we shall all be sent to gaol before night.”
 “ The poor woman retired; and I advanced to-
 “ wards him. ‘ Pardon my intrusion, sir;
 “ (said I) but by your conversation I am con-
 “ vinced you are in distress. If you will in-
 “ form me the nature of your present embarrass-
 “ ment, I will endeavour to relieve you.’ ‘ I
 “ thank you, sir, (replied he) but it is not in
 “ your power to be of service to me; I am in
 “ debt fifty pounds to a man that I expect will
 “ arrest me every minute; and if he does, it
 “ will be my ruin. I keep a school, by which
 “ I support myself and family very well: but
 “ as I cannot raise this money, my reputation
 “ will be torn to pieces, and my wife and chil-
 “ dren will starve.’ ‘ Do you owe no more
 “ than fifty pounds?’ (demanded I). ‘ Not a
 “ farthing, young gentleman; (answered he)
 “ but that is far too much.’ ‘ Stay here a
 “ minute, (returned I) and I will fetch it you
 “ immediately.’ The poor man viewed me
 “ with looks of silent astonishment; and seem-
 “ ed to want words to express his gratitude. In
 “ my desire to serve this distressed object, I for-
 “ got I had not the value of fifty pounds in the
 “ world at my command. Lord William

“ wanted five hundred this morning, and I
 “ could not be possessed of that sum, and see
 “ him in distress for money. Had it not been
 “ for your goodness, Mr. Frankley, I should
 “ not have been able to relieve the real distress
 “ I have been a spectator of. I shall always
 “ think myself under infinite obligations to
 “ you, for your obliging assistance; and will
 “ pay you with the utmost gratitude, the first
 “ money I receive.’ He would have given me
 “ his note, but I declined it; and commended
 “ his benevolence as it deserved. I begged
 “ leave to inform your Lordship of the repre-
 “ hensible conduct Lord William was pursu-
 “ ing: with much reluctance he consented;
 “ but entreated I would soften the detail as
 “ much as possible, for the sake of the Coun-
 “ tefs. To satisfy him, I promised I would;
 “ but I thought it necessary your Lordship
 “ should be informed of the truth; as in that
 “ case, you would know better how to pro-
 “ ceed. The set Lord William is engaged
 “ with, will, I am apprehensive, destroy his
 “ happiness here, and at the same time endan-
 “ ger his eternal welfare.

“ They are all no better than Atheists, as I
 “ am informed by those who are well acquaint-
 “ ed with their real principles. If I might
 “ presume to advise your Lordship, it would
 “ be to remove the young gentlemen imme-
 “ diately

“diately from Oxford; as it will be impossible
 “to keep Lord William from his companions,
 “while he is here; and as he wants applica-
 “tion, he will not, I am afraid, make any
 “farther improvement. In regard to Mr.
 “Grenville, there cannot be a better scholar,
 “nor a finer gentleman than he is. I shall
 “wait your determination with the utmost im-
 “patience; and am, my Lord, your Lord-
 “ship’s most obliged humble servant,

“JOHN FRANKLEY.”

“When the Earl had finished this letter,
 “every person, except Louisa and I, expressed
 “their sentiments on it. They all joined in
 “condemning Lord William, and praising
 “Mr. Grenville. After much debate, it was
 “their unanimous opinion the advice of Mr.
 “Frankley should be followed, and both the
 “gentlemen recalled. This method was pur-
 “sued, and the Earl wrote to his sons he should
 “expect to see them the following week, in
 “London; where we were all going likewise.
 “He determined to inform Lord William he
 “knew of his conduct, and by every way he
 “could think of, endeavour to inspire him with
 “a proper detestation of it.

“The Earl and Countess took leave of us,
 “to return to town, and we were to follow
 “them

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' them in a few days. The duke, who was for-
 ' ever at the park, proposed leaving the coun-
 ' try at the same time; and hoped for my per-
 ' mission to attend me to publick places. As I
 ' was so soon to have Mr. Grenville restored to
 ' me, I did not want his attendance; and coldly
 ' thanked him. Mortified at this, he resolved
 ' to make an immediate application to my fa-
 ' ther, which he accordingly did; the Dutcheſs
 ' aſſiſting him. My dear father replied he was
 ' greatly obliged to his Grace, for the honour
 ' he intended him; and if he could gain my
 ' affections, his conſent would follow my elec-
 ' tion: that he would not pretend to uſe his
 ' authority in a caſe where the happineſs of my
 ' life depended. He ſo fondly loved me, he
 ' ſaid, that he would reſign his own, to ſecure
 ' my felicity; and if his Grace was the deſtined
 ' man to touch my heart, he ſhould with joy
 ' accept his alliance. This answer of my fa-
 ' ther rather damped the Duke's hopes; but,
 ' however, he was reſolved to perſevere, and
 ' endeavour to win my heart. The whole fa-
 ' mily was ſtrong in his intereſt, except Sir
 ' Edward and my Louiſa, who finding me a-
 ' verſe, were ſilent.

' When we returned to town, Auguſtus, who
 ' had been there two days before us, haſtened to
 ' meet us with the greateſt joy; and we re-
 ' ceived him as he merited. He informed us
 ' Lord.

‘ Lord William had acknowledged his errors to
‘ the Earl; and had promised to amend them:
‘ that his father was happy beyond his most sanguine hopes, to see him so soon renounce his
‘ faults: that he flattered himself, by mildness
‘ and indulgence, to wean him intirely from
‘ every bad habit; and in time he might become an amiable man. We all joined sincerely in this wish; and begged he would favour us with a visit. He said his brother did not imagine we were acquainted with his conduct, and would have come with him, but he was prevented by a particular engagement. Mr. Grenville behaved with the same tenderness and respect he used to do, both to Louisa and me: but as we were now grown up, we did not treat him with so much freedom. We had no opportunity of speaking to him alone that night, or I should have informed him of the Duke’s application: but as he promised to come with the Earl and Countess the next day, I thought that would do as well.

‘ Unfortunately, before they arrived at Grosvenor-square, the Duke of —— was with us: he had just taken my hand by force, to put on a diamond ring, when Lord and Lady Bromfield, Lord William, and Mr. Grenville, entered the room. Augustus started, and turned pale, on seeing his Grace holding my hand. This little circumstance did not
‘ strike.

‘ strike me, tho’ it did Louisa. I welcomed
‘ Lord William on his return to the capital.
‘ He received my compliments with great po-
‘ liteness and good humour, as he did Louisa’s,
‘ and made many fine speeches on our encrease
‘ of beauty, that from him passed very well.
‘ The Countess introduced her sons to the
‘ Duke: Augustus hardly spoke to him, which
‘ amazed me, as his sweetness of disposition
‘ used formerly to appear, in his address to
‘ strangers particularly. He seated himself on
‘ a sofa, opposite the chair I sat in, and seem-
‘ ed buried in thought. His Grace came, and
‘ leaning on the back of my chair, kept whis-
‘ pering about the ring. Something I said
‘ made him laugh violently; this caused Mr.
‘ Grenville suddenly to look up; but seeing
‘ who it was, and in what manner he was si-
‘ tuated, he resumed his thoughtful attitude,
‘ and again seemed absent.

‘ Vexed to death to see him so uneasy, I a-
‘ rose, and walking across the room, sat down
‘ by him. The Duke took my chair, and fell
‘ into conversation with Louisa.---“ What
‘ makes you so absent, Mr. Grenville? Have
‘ you left your heart at Oxford?” (said I)
‘ “No, Miss Belville; (answered he) my heart
‘ is not out of this room; nor your’s neither,
‘ I fancy.” (he sighed) Not understanding
‘ what he meant, I replied, “No, indeed, Au-
‘ gustus;

' gustus; I have it myself: but why are you
 ' so formal? you are not angry with me, I
 ' hope? I have not heard you address me in
 ' that distant manner a great while." "My
 ' dear Adeline, (replied he) I did not mean
 ' to address you with more ceremony than I
 ' used to do; but I saw you so much engaged
 ' with the Duke of —, that I supposed an
 ' interruption from me would not be agreeable."
 "And why did you suppose so, Mr. Gren-
 ' ville? did I ever give you reason to imagine
 ' your company was disagreeable to me? Po-
 ' liteness obliged me to listen to his Grace, not
 ' choice, I assure you." "And was it no
 ' more than politeness, Adeline? (said he)
 ' then I am happy. I feared your heart in-
 ' clined you to listen to him." He looked at
 ' me attentively; his very soul speaking
 ' through his fine eyes: I felt myself blush,
 ' and was in infinite confusion. He took my
 ' hand: "Those fears were just; (said he) I
 ' see he has obtained your heart: speak, Ade-
 ' line; and ease this tumultuous war within,
 ' that is hardly supportable."

' His violence amazed me; and I could not
 ' speak at the moment if I might have had
 ' worlds.---" 'Tis plain, (continued he) let-
 ' ting go my hand: you love his Grace, and I
 ' must no longer hope for the same tender dis-
 ' tinction you formerly honoured me with."

' He

“He folded his arms, and cast his eyes on the
“ground with the utmost dejection. I was
“much affected with his sorrow; and was pre-
“paring to answer him, when the Duke arose,
“and walked towards me. “I can no longer
“bear to be separate from you, my dear Miss
“Belville, (said he). He sat down on the so-
“pha: Mr. Grenville eyed him from head to
“foot. “What have you been engaged with,
“madam, (continued his Grace) will you not
“inform me? there lives not a man who will
“be more faithful to your trusts. Surely, my
“amiable Miss Belville, my love may claim
“that favour at your hands; why will you not
“honour me with your confidence?” “My
“Lord, I want not a confident.” (answered I)
“Is it not hard, Mr. Grenville, (said he,
“turning to him) that I cannot bring this
“charming creature to have the least pity on
“me?” “Oh, your Grace will find a way
“to move her pity at last: (answered he) I have
“no doubt.” He turned red and pale alter-
“nately; and deeply sighing, arose from his
“seat. Fortunately, nobody in the room ob-
“served his disorder. I followed him to the
“window, whither he was gone, and taking
“him by the arm, “are you not well, Au-
“gustus? (demanded I) with the greatest
“trembling of voice). “No, Adeline; (said
“he) nor ever shall be.” “Heaven forbid,
“my

‘ my dear Mr. Grenville; let me get you some-
 ‘ thing.” “ And am I dear to you, my
 ‘ adored Adeline?” (returned he) “ You
 ‘ are indeed, Augustus: (replied I) I would
 ‘ willingly suffer any thing to restore you to
 ‘ health.” “ I am well, then, my lovely girl,
 ‘ answered he; but here comes my torment.”
 ‘ The Duke was approaching: I was infinitely
 ‘ provoked at this second interruption, and
 ‘ made no answer to what he said; but turning
 ‘ to Mr. Grenville, “ I am ready to attend
 ‘ you, Augustus, whenever you please,” said I,
 ‘ holding out my hand. He took it and pressed
 ‘ it to his lips. We quitted the room, leaving
 ‘ his Grace in the utmost astonishment. “ How
 ‘ amiably considerate, my Adeline, (said Mr.
 ‘ Grenville, as soon as we entered the Musick-
 ‘ parlour) to prevent my exposing myself to the
 ‘ company above! but I was not sufficiently
 ‘ master of myself to conceal my emotions from
 ‘ you; I would not offend you, but I cannot
 ‘ bear to see you behave to the Duke with that
 ‘ captivating complacency; but if you love
 ‘ him, why should you not?” “ Why should
 ‘ you, Augustus, construe a general civility
 ‘ into partiality for his Grace? I do assure you
 ‘ I do not love him, nor ever shall.” “ Then
 ‘ I am blessed again! Repeat, my dear Ade-
 ‘ line, those enchanting words, *nor ever shall*
 ‘ and you will transport me: I see he adores
 ‘ you,

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“you, but if you will never love him, I am
 “easy.” “Why what has he done to you, that
 “of all other men you dislike him so much?”
 “It is not the Duke particularly, answered he,
 “but every man that sought to gain your affec-
 “tions I must detest. Oh, Adeline, I adore
 “you myself! how then can I bear the idea of
 “another gaining that heart I would die to ob-
 “tain? I have long loved you, long concealed
 “my passion; and should still have concealed
 “it, had I not apprehended you regarded the
 “Duke tenderly; that thought betrayed me
 “into emotions that must have discovered my
 “love; speak, and tell me if you will forgive
 “my presumption? I know I am not worthy
 “of you, but I cannot help adoring you.”

“This unexpected declaration (for, ‘till
 “that moment, I had no idea his behaviour
 “proceeded from any particular regard) threw
 “me into the utmost confusion; I knew not
 “what to say; I loved him so well, my heart
 “shrank at the idea of giving him pain, and
 “to flatter his hopes I did not like, lest my fa-
 “ther would not approve our attachment. I
 “was silent: he begged I would answer him.
 “After some hesitation, I addressed him as fol-
 “lows: “You are sensible, Augustus, I ever
 “felt for you the tenderest affection, and re-
 “garded you as a brother, nor ‘till this moment
 “did I imagine you loved me other than as a
 “sister,

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‘ sister, and thought Louisa shared with me
 ‘ your affection. Your behaviour just now up
 ‘ stairs surprized me, but still I suspected not
 ‘ from what motives it proceeded. Your de-
 ‘ claration has opened my eyes, and I see your
 ‘ behaviour frequently arose from tenderer sen-
 ‘ sations than I believed. To say this disco-
 ‘ very of your passion had abated my regard for
 ‘ you, would be ridiculous affectation: I love
 ‘ you, Augustus, as I ever did, and shall con-
 ‘ tinue to do so to the end of my existence.
 ‘ Nay, perhaps, was my father to consent”---
 “ You would be mine forever, exclaimed Mr.
 ‘ Grenville. Oh my amiable, my angelic
 ‘ Adeline, I expected no less than this gene-
 ‘ rous explicitness from your noble disposition;
 ‘ you know my sincerity; you have long known
 ‘ it; nor can my Adeline suspect I would de-
 ‘ ceive her. I love you with an affection not
 ‘ to be equalled; my whole life shall be spent
 ‘ in promoting your felicity; I will intreat Sir
 ‘ Edward to give you to me, and depend on his
 ‘ partiality for making me happy.” “ Be pa-
 ‘ tient, Mr. Grenville, answered I, my father
 ‘ has promised his interest to the Duke, pro-
 ‘ vided he can gain my heart, which he has al-
 ‘ lowed him to endeavour at: he would be of-
 ‘ fended if a nobleman of his consequence was
 ‘ not treated with every respect which is so
 ‘ justly his due. I shall soften as much as
 ‘ possible

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' possible the absolute refusal I mean to give
 ' him; he never had the least reason to suppose
 ' his love would be accepted by me; though in
 ' compliance with the united intreaties of his
 ' mother, the Earl and Countess, (who are en-
 ' tirely his friends) Mr. and Mrs. Somners and
 ' my father, I suffered his assiduities, though I
 ' was from the moment of his declaration
 ' determined not to accept him as an husband.
 ' Sir Edward told him, his consent would
 ' follow my election: therefore, Augustus,
 ' as the Duke's fate entirely depends on me,
 ' I would wish you to be silent some time
 ' longer to my father on the score of your
 ' passion; we are both very young, and hap-
 ' pily situated in respect to seeing each other;
 ' let me then get clear of this entanglement
 ' before you declare your love, and trust me
 ' for breaking it off." " My adored Adeline,
 ' answered he, you are all goodness! I will be
 ' guided by you in every thing; yes, my love,
 ' follow the noble dictates of your heart; to
 ' lose you will be torment enough; make the
 ' Duke's disappointment as easy as possible,
 ' but remember, on your ending his hopes de-
 ' pends the happiness of your Augustus."

' I smiled, but was prevented answering by
 ' the entrance of the Countess. " I have been
 ' looking for you, children, all over the house,
 ' said she; why did you leave the room in such
 ' haste?

' haste? the Duke is almost distracted, Ade-
 ' line, at your behaviour; how can you treat
 ' him so cruelly? You must persuade her to
 ' have some compassion on him, Augustus, she
 ' will mind what you say." "And so I would
 ' what your Ladyship says, answered I; but
 ' you would not have me flatter the Duke's
 ' passion when I do not love him? surely, ma-
 ' dam, that would be base." "Ay, my dear,
 ' but why do you not love him? Can you
 ' have a more amiable man? Does he not of-
 ' fer to settle his whole estate on you? What
 ' can be your objection?" "Your ladyship
 ' knows there is no accounting for the heart; I
 ' allow him every merit he can possess, yet I
 ' cannot love him; and without love I will ne-
 ' ver marry." "Perhaps, my dear, your af-
 ' fections are already engaged, but I can hardly
 ' imagine that; if it is so, Miss Belville, and
 ' you are attached to a worthy object, I have
 ' no doubt but Sir Edward would consent to
 ' make you happy. I dare say, the man who
 ' has gained your heart has given you his in
 ' return." "It were sacrilege to doubt it,
 ' madam, answered Mr. Grenville; and I dare
 ' affirm, the man Miss Belville suffers to raise
 ' his eyes to her with hope, adores her; she is
 ' loved by him with a flame next to idolatry:
 ' oh did your ladyship know with what fond-
 ' ness this man loves our Adeline, you would
 ' no

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' no longer think the passion of the Duke me-
 ' rited your interest." " Be silent, Mr. Gren-
 ' ville." (said I) " Proceed, Augustus, (an-
 ' swered the Countess) inform me who this
 ' lover is, that I should transfer my interest
 ' from the Duke to him. Miss Belville may
 ' depend upon my silence if it is necessary."
 " I know she may, my dearest mother, (re-
 ' plied Mr. Grenville) as well as I on your af-
 ' fection. Excuse me, my angel, (said he,
 ' turning to me) for this once disobeying you.
 ' In me, madam, (continued he to the Coun-
 ' tress) behold the lover of Miss Belville.
 ' Long have I loved her with the most passionate
 ' tenderness; but never till this day acknow-
 ' ledged it. She still honours me with the
 ' same affection she has ever felt for me:
 ' nay, allow me to hope the sanction of Sir
 ' Edward would induce her to regard me in a
 ' still dearer light. Think you then, madam,
 ' I should plead for the Duke, who must my-
 ' self be wretched without her pity?" " And
 ' is it really true, my children, (replied the
 ' Countess) does my Augustus love Miss Bel-
 ' ville? Receive my congratulations, my dear
 ' son; and you too, my Adeline: your vir-
 ' tues only merit each other; no hearts were
 ' ever so truly alike. Indeed, Augustus, I
 ' shall no longer plead for the Duke, since, by
 ' so doing, I shall injure your happiness."

' I told

‘ I told her the method I should pursue in regard to his Grace; she highly applauded it, and assured us she would not mention the circumstance we had revealed to her; and again congratulating us on our attachment, left the room.

‘ When she was gone, Mr. Grenville intreated my pardon for having informed the Countess of his love. “ But indeed, my Adeline, (continued he) I could not bear to hear her plead for his Grace; and I was well assured she would never attempt influencing you in his favour, when she knew the situation of my heart.” I easily forgave him, and we returned to the drawing-room.

‘ The Earl and my father laughed at us for having been absent so long. I was a good deal confused at their pleasantry, but Mr. Grenville relieved me by saying he had been delighted with hearing a new piece of music I had favoured him with. “ Have you so? (said the Earl) then we will all be equally favoured; and so, fair lady, descend again to please the father, as you have done the son.” He took my hand, they all followed us: fortunately I had a new piece, and this excuse for our absence passed off very well. The Duke loaded me with commendations, as did Mr. Grenville, and Lord William; the latter of these Gentlemen had now recovered his
‘ spirits,

‘ spirits, and was as entertaining as he used to
‘ be. We passed the day in the most agreeable
‘ manner: his Grace was engaged for the even-
‘ ing, and therefore took his leave early, tell-
‘ ing me he would do himself the honour of
‘ calling on me the next day: I bowed, and he
‘ left us.

‘ Lord William and Mr. Grenville begged
‘ Louisa and I would go to the play with them,
‘ we went, and saw Garrick in Hamlet, the
‘ first time I had ever beheld him in that no-
‘ ble character. He surpassed even the high
‘ idea I had formed of him, and by his admi-
‘ rable performance did ample justice to the ini-
‘ mitable language of that justly admired play.

‘ I concluded with Augustus he should not
‘ call the next morning, and I would endea-
‘ vour to persuade the Duke to resign his hopes.
‘ When we retired, I related to Louisa all
‘ that had passed in the day: she congratulated
‘ me on being beloved by Augustus, and hoped
‘ our felicity would meet no interruption.
‘ “But how amazing, my Adeline, (continued
‘ she) that neither of us should discover he
‘ loved you before!” • “The tenderness he
‘ has equally shewn us, my Louisa, even from
‘ infancy, hindered our observing a particula-
‘ rity in his attachment to me: so firmly I
‘ thought him my friend, I never entertained
‘ an idea of him as a lover.” “But now you
‘ are

“are convinced he is your lover, (answered Louisa) do you not find the affection you always felt for him greatly increased?” “I do, my Louisa: nay, I am convinced I have long loved him, tho’ I would not suffer myself to think so. The first time the Duke told me I was dear to him, I felt a repugnance to hear him; the idea of Augustus obtruded itself on my imagination, and I could not help drawing comparisons between them. Yes, I am certain I loved Mr. Grenville, when I only imagined my sensations arose from friendship. Now he has avowed his passion, I may with propriety indulge my feelings in his favour: his virtues are so numerous, that I fear, unless I take great care, I shall love him too well.” She rejoiced in my felicity, and the following morning, about twelve, the Duke came.

“I was alone in my dressing room, when he entered. “To find you thus, my adored Miss Belville, (said he) was a happiness I hardly dared hope for.” “I kept myself disengaged on purpose to receive your Grace; as you had informed me you would do me the honour of a visit.” “That is doubly obliging, my dear madam: how shall I repay your goodness?” “By granting the request I am going to make you, my Lord.” “Any thing, madam, you will condescend to ask; (said
 Vol. III. B he)

‘ he) I will comply with any thing that is in
‘ my power.” “ I thank you, my Lord : the
‘ request I am going to make concerns the hap-
‘ piness of your Grace as much as it does my
‘ peace. The affection with which you have
‘ honoured me, calls for my most grateful ac-
‘ knowledgments ; but at the same time I must
‘ intreat you to withdraw it, as it will never be
‘ in my power to make the return you merit.
‘ This I informed you of long ago, tho’ in com-
‘ pliance with your intreaties, and those you
‘ had interested in your favour, I suffered you
‘ to visit me ; at the same time I gave you that
‘ permission, I likewise told you it would be
‘ without effect. As you have now by experi-
‘ ence found the truth of that declaration, I
‘ should deem myself infinitely obliged, if you
‘ would no more mention your love to me, as
‘ my resolution is fixed, and never will be al-
‘ tered. Your Grace will do me the justice to
‘ acknowledge I have not deceived you in this
‘ affair ; but have acted openly, and explicitly
‘ from the first.” “ I do, madam, acknow-
‘ ledge, (answered the Duke) you never gave
‘ me the smallest encouragement : but I did
‘ not expect so absolute a dismission from you
‘ at this time. Pardon me, Miss Belville, if I
‘ imagine you would not have so peremptorally
‘ refused my offer, had you not been prejudiced
‘ in favour of some happier man : but if that is
‘ the

' the case, and you will honour me with your
 ' confidence, I will no longer persecute you
 ' with declarations so hateful, whatever it may
 ' cost me." " Your Grace binds me in obli-
 ' gations for ever. Yes, my Lord, I will
 ' make you the confidant of my attachment to
 ' the most amiable of his sex." " Is not Mr.
 ' Grenville the man, madam?" " He is, my
 ' Lord." " I have no more to demand, ma-
 ' dam; (replied he, with a distracted air) with
 ' him no man can stand any chance: his vir-
 ' tues (of which I have heard a great deal,
 ' from a gentleman who was with him at Ox-
 ' ford) merit the reward he has obtained. Your
 ' heart, Miss Belville, is a treasure that a
 ' King might be proud to gain. I have en-
 ' gaged, madam, no more to mention my love;
 ' I never will violate that engagement. I will
 ' endeavour to prevail on the Dutchesse to ac-
 ' company me to France, for I cannot stay and
 ' see another man receive your hand." " I
 ' hope your Grace will meet every felicity in a
 ' foreign kingdom you so entirely deserve; and
 ' that you may bestow your heart on some fair-
 ' one who will be capable of returning your
 ' love, and make you as happy as you merit to
 ' be." " As to that, Miss Belville, (answered
 ' he) I do not expect happiness: the only wo-
 ' man I ever loved has refused me, and I shall
 ' never again meet with her equal. Tho' you
 ' have

‘ have been the cause of misery to me, I shall
 ‘ rejoice to hear of your felicity. I will no
 ‘ longer detain you from Mr. Grenville, ma-
 ‘ dam; the envied, tho’ deservedly beloved Mr.
 ‘ Grenville.---Farewel, my lovely Adeline!
 ‘ you never will behold me more.” He hurried
 ‘ out of the room, nor did I attempt to stop
 ‘ him: his departure affected me, and I was
 ‘ weeping when the Countess and Louisa en-
 ‘ tered. I related to them what had passed, and
 ‘ they could not help giving a tear to the Duke’s
 ‘ misery.

‘ In the afternoon, as we were waiting for
 ‘ Augustus, the Dutchess of ----- came: only
 ‘ the Countess, Mrs. Somners, Louisa and me
 ‘ were together. “ Alas, Miss Belville, (said
 ‘ she, as soon as she was seated) you have un-
 ‘ done the Duke; he has told me the conversa-
 ‘ tion that passed between you, and is almost
 ‘ distracted; yet you are not to blame: why was
 ‘ you so amiable? or why was my poor Edwin
 ‘ so sensible of your perfections? I know not
 ‘ what I would say to you, only I know that
 ‘ my child is wretched.” “ I am infinitely
 ‘ concerned, replied I, that I have been the
 ‘ unfortunate cause of his misery; but indeed,
 ‘ (as your Grace observed) I was not designedly
 ‘ so, nor am I conscious of having, by any in-
 ‘ considerate encouragement, given just ground
 ‘ for the Duke’s hopes: I am as much con-
 ‘ cerned

‘ cerned as your Grace can be, for being obliged
 ‘ to say what I this morning did, but you would
 ‘ not wish I should have flattered his passion,
 ‘ and not have been able to return it. Your
 ‘ son has informed you of all that has passed
 ‘ between us ?” “ Yes, Miss Belville, he has,
 ‘ and I find you have given your heart to the
 ‘ deserving Mr. Grenville. I am glad one so
 ‘ worthy has supplanted my son in your affec-
 ‘ tions ; perhaps if he had not obtained your
 ‘ heart, you would have given it to my Edwin.
 ‘ Suffer me to indulge that pleasing thought,
 ‘ Miss Belville ; let me console him with that
 ‘ assurance.” “ I would give your Grace every
 ‘ consolation in my power, answered I, but I
 ‘ cannot say how my heart would have been af-
 ‘ fected with the Duke’s merit, had it never
 ‘ been influenced by the virtues of Augustus.”
 ‘ Mrs. Somners looked surprized : “ My dear
 ‘ madam, said the Countess to her, we have a
 ‘ tale to unfold that will amaze you ; a little
 ‘ while longer, and it will be entirely revealed.
 ‘ They both sought to comfort the Dutchess,
 ‘ as did Louisa : I was silent. When she had
 ‘ sat some time, she told us she had promised
 ‘ the Duke to go abroad with him, and that she
 ‘ called to bid us adieu. As she found there
 ‘ were no hopes for him, but his disappoint-
 ‘ ment was so much in her head that she could
 ‘ talk of nothing else, she took a polite leave of

us all, and wished the Countess joy on the happiness of her son.

Soon after her departure Mr. Grenville came; he was delighted to find the Duke's hopes at an end, and thanked me in the tenderest manner for the happiness I had given him. As every obstacle was now removed that before prevented his application to my father, he intreated me to suffer him to make his passion known to Sir Edward. I loved him so well, I could not refuse his request, and gave my consent that the Countess might acquaint the Earl and my father that very evening. This so transported my dear Augustus, that he flung himself at my feet, and was like a man distracted with joy. When he was a little more composed, we informed Mrs. Somners of our attachment, who sincerely shared in our felicity. The Countess proposed, that Louisa and I should go that evening to the play with Mr. Grenville, that she might have an opportunity to disclose the affair to the Earl and Sir Edward; accordingly we went. Never in my life did I spend a more agreeable evening. Augustus was all tender affection; no words can do justice to the excess of his passion; he loved to such an extreme degree, that if I cast my eyes from him he was uneasy. Little did I attend to the play, too apprehensive of what might be

the

‘ the consequence of the Countess’s information; though I had no great deal to dread from the rigour of my father or the Earl, yet could I not be free from fears.

‘ As soon as the play was over, Mr. Grenville proposed returning home; Louisa and I immediately consented, and we got into the coach. When we arrived at Grosvenor-square, I was so terrified I could hardly stand. Mr. Grenville and Louisa supported me, and we proceeded to the drawing-room, where my father, the Earl and Countess, Mr. and Mrs. Somners were assembled; Sir Edward was leaning his head on his hand, and took no notice of us. Mr. Grenville led me to the sofa, and advanced to my father: “Are you not well, sir?” “Indifferent, young gentleman,” answered he. This method of speaking affected me so much, that had not Louisa gave me her smelling-bottle, I should have fainted. Mr. Grenville came to me; “My dearest Adeline, said he, permit me to lead you to the air.” I could not answer him. My father looked round, and seeing me so agitated, came towards me: “My child, said he, what is the matter? Speak, my beloved Adeline, and say what occasions your emotions?” These kind words recovered me, and I threw myself at his feet: “Ah, my dear sir, I feared I had offended you in refusing

'sing the Duke, which I suppose Lady Brom-
 'field has told you of, and I could not support
 'your anger." "My darling, my only com-
 'fort! (exclaimed he) rise, you never offended
 'me; you are my delight and happiness! [He
 'tenderly embraced me] yes, my child, the
 'Countess has informed me you dismissed the
 'Duke, because you loved somebody else."
 'He took my hand: "Come hither, Augustus:
 'I give you, said he, what is far dearer to me
 'than myself; love her as she merits; she is the
 'best girl now living, and you truly deserve
 'her; may you be happy, my children, and
 'may the Almighty bless you!" He put my
 'hand in his, and sat silently gazing at us.

"For this rich, this invaluable gift, replied
 'Mr. Grenville, may heaven protect me as I
 'cherish it! my whole life will be too short to
 'speak my gratitude, either to you, my dear sir,
 'or my adored Adeline." He bowed on my
 'hand; the tears started in his eyes; I could
 'not speak; Augustus turned to his father----
 "May I not hope, my Lord, that you will
 'compleat my happiness, by giving your as-
 'senting voice?" "You may, my dear boy,
 'answered the Earl; I joyfully consent to
 'your union with this lovely girl, almost as
 'dear to me as yourself; you were formed for
 'each other, and therefore, that you will ex-
 'perience as much happiness as mortality is
 'capable

' capable of enjoying, is beyond a doubt ; hea-
 ' ven bless you, my dear children !" He
 ' paused, and my father addressed us : " That
 ' you both love, I have not the least doubt ;
 ' but as you are very young, I would advise
 ' you not to think of marrying at least this
 ' twelvemonth ; you will be blessed with the
 ' society of each other, and therefore had bet-
 ' ter not engage immediately in the cares of a
 ' wedded estate. I see, Mr. Grenville, this ad-
 ' vice does not entirely please you, but you
 ' must submit ; my Adeline is yet too young
 ' to become a wife." Mr. Grenville would
 ' have persuaded Sir Edward to change his re-
 ' solution, but as I acquiesced in it, he was
 ' obliged to do so likewise.

' Thus passed four delightful months ; every
 ' day gave me fresh reason to love my Augustus,
 ' as I discovered more of his virtues ; his affec-
 ' tion for me was unbounded, and no situation
 ' could be happier than ours. The Earl and
 ' Countess shared our felicity, as did each
 ' amiable individual of the family. Our
 ' happiness was augmented by the apparent
 ' reformation of Lord William ; he never
 ' kept irregular hours, and his character was
 ' that of an amiable nobleman. His delighted
 ' father and mother expressed their pleasure at
 ' this fortunate change in thankful acknow-
 ' ledgments to heaven.

‘ Mr. Grenville would frequently say to me,
 “ Next to thy love, my Adeline, and the af-
 ‘ fection and health of my other dear friends,
 ‘ the alteration in my brother gives me the
 ‘ most heart-felt delight; he will now be an
 ‘ honour to his family instead of a disgrace.
 ‘ I glory in his early repentance more than if
 ‘ he never had offended. How will the good
 ‘ Mr. Frankley rejoice at this happy change !
 ‘ I will write to him when the Earl does (to
 ‘ inform him of the living he has for him)
 ‘ and express the overflowings of my heart on
 ‘ this event.” Thus would this best of men
 ‘ speak of Lord William, whom he appeared
 ‘ to love more than ever. His Lordship seemed
 ‘ to return it by his kind and brotherly beha-
 ‘ viour. Of me also he was very fond; this
 ‘ endeared him more to Mr. Grenville, and he
 ‘ thought he could never sufficiently oblige
 ‘ him.

‘ As the summer was advancing, we return-
 ‘ ed to Belville-Park, all but the Earl and
 ‘ Countess, with Lord William, who went to
 ‘ their own seat. Here passed two happy months,
 ‘ the last I enjoyed at that beloved spot.

‘ My dear Augustus did all in his power to
 ‘ make my time agreeable; and, loving as we
 ‘ did, it could not be otherwise. One day
 ‘ returning from an airing we had been taking
 ‘ on horseback, Mrs. Sommers came to us in
 ‘ the

“the parlour; “My dear Adeline, said she,
 “do not be alarmed, but Sir Edward is very
 “ill; he was taken some hours ago with a vio-
 “lent pain in his bowels: I sent immediately
 “for Dr. Apgill, who fears he is in danger!
 “the pain continued very bad till about half
 “an hour since, when he fell into a sleep
 “which I hope will prove beneficial to him.”
 “This account cast such a damp to my heart
 “that I could not speak. Every one present was
 “deeply affected. We sat silent a great while;
 “at length Mrs. Somners taking my hand, pro-
 “ceeded; “Do not be melancholy, my dear
 “Adeline, I hope it will please heaven to re-
 “store your amiable father to us; but if not,
 “reflect, my beloved child, it is the will of
 “the Almighty, and we must bear it. She pull-
 “ed out her handkerchief, and walked to the
 “window to hide her concern; but she could
 “not avoid sobbing loud enough for us to hear.
 “Louisa and I were infinitely distressed; Mr.
 “Grenville walked up and down the room with
 “a quick, irregular motion; the big tears stole
 “down his face seemingly without his know-
 “ledge.

“Thus were we in a moment changed from
 “the height of human happiness to the utmost
 “distress. Mr. Somners entered the room, his
 “countenance was clouded with sorrow. “El-
 “vira, my love, said he, Sir Edward is awake,
 “and wishes to see his children.” He took me

“in

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' in his arms ; " Support yourself, my sweet
 ' girl, as you value the health of your father."
 " I will, my dear sir, (answered I, walking
 ' to the glass and drying my eyes) you shall
 ' see I will." We then went all together to
 ' my father's chamber ; he was sitting up in
 ' the bed, and looked very pale. " I am glad
 ' to see you, my children, said he ; I have been
 ' very ill since we parted, but I hope it will be
 ' soon over : do not afflict yourselves, my good
 ' friends, (seeing Mrs. Somners wipe her eyes)
 ' I shall be better presently. My Adeline,
 ' continued he, my dearest Adeline, do not
 ' grieve, I cannot bear your sorrow." " I will
 ' not, my beloved father, (answered I, stifling
 ' my rebellious tears) I am quite composed."
 " You are a good girl, and like your mother
 ' in every thing, replied he. Where is my
 ' son ? (Augustus advanced towards him)
 ' Write to the Earl and Countess, my dear boy,
 ' directly, and tell them I am ill, and wish to
 ' see them ; I know they will come immedi-
 ' ately." Mr. Grenville bowed, but could not
 ' answer him. " If you please, my good friends,
 ' you may retire, I find myself sleepy : he em-
 ' braced me, and we left the chamber, the Phy-
 ' sician with us. " What do you think of Sir
 ' Edward, Dr. Apgill ?" asked Mrs. Somners.
 " Why I hope, madam, I may be mistaken,
 ' replied he, but I fear that unless there is a
 ' change

‘ change before eight hours are over, he will
 ‘ not be alive to-morrow night.” — I re-
 ‘ member no more till I recovered my senses,
 ‘ and found myself on my own bed, Augustus
 ‘ kneeling by me, and Mrs. Somners holding
 ‘ hartshorn to my nose; my dear Louisa stood
 ‘ weeping at the bottom of the bed. The Doc-
 ‘ tor’s terrible words still rung in my ears, and
 ‘ I was almost reduced to the same situation
 ‘ from which I had but just recovered, had not
 ‘ a violent flood of tears relieved the anguish I
 ‘ experienced. With much intreaty they pre-
 ‘ vailed on Augustus to leave me; and I en-
 ‘ deavoured to sleep, but in vain. I begged
 ‘ I might be suffered to attend my father; but
 ‘ that, Mrs. Somners would not hear of: she
 ‘ promised to be with him herself, if I would
 ‘ keep in bed, as she feared my being about
 ‘ Sir Edward would only make him uneasy,
 ‘ as he would think I should fatigue myself. She
 ‘ went to his room, and brought me word
 ‘ he was much better; however, this would
 ‘ not satisfy me till I had it confirmed by his
 ‘ own lips. I got up and went to him; he
 ‘ said he was much easier, and inclined to sleep.
 ‘ This satisfied me; and as I could with dif-
 ‘ ficulty stand, I returned to my own chamber.
 ‘ I had ordered my woman to sit up with my
 ‘ father; and if she found the least alteration,
 ‘ she should immediatly call me. Mr. Gren-
 ‘ ville

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‘ ville came every ten minutes to enquire of
 ‘ Louisa’s woman how I did ; as Mrs. Somners
 ‘ had insisted she should set up in our room,
 ‘ lest I should be worse.

‘ In the morning we rose early, and went to
 ‘ Sir Edward’s chamber ; we found Mrs. Som-
 ‘ ners and Augustus there : they gently chid
 ‘ us for rising so soon. My dear father appeared
 ‘ much better ; he had a very good night, en-
 ‘ tirely free from pain. This filled us with
 ‘ the most pleasing hopes ; and we went down
 ‘ to breakfast in high spirits. Before we had
 ‘ finished, the Earl and Countess arrived.
 ‘ They were delighted with the account we
 ‘ gave of Sir Edward. As soon as we had done
 ‘ breakfast, we returned to his room. My
 ‘ father thanked Lord and Lady Bromfield for
 ‘ the haste they had made to see him.

‘ We all flattered ourselves the worst of his
 ‘ disorder was over, and he would speedily be
 ‘ well. Lord Bromfield had brought a physi-
 ‘ cian with him that happened to be on a visit
 ‘ at his house ; and as soon as we left my fa-
 ‘ ther, he asked his opinion. He begged him
 ‘ to bear the information he was about to give
 ‘ with resolution. “ I hope, my Lord, said he,
 ‘ I shall not shock these ladies by declaring my
 ‘ real sentiments ; I think the truth should not
 ‘ be concealed. Sir Edward is in imminent dan-
 ‘ ger : I fear a mortification is now coming on ;
 ‘ and

‘ and if he has any affairs to settle, I would
 ‘ advise him to do it directly.” This speech
 ‘ threw us into the greatest agony! I could
 ‘ hardly support myself! Just at this moment,
 ‘ Dr. Asgill arrived. The two physical gen-
 ‘ tlemen went together to my father, to whom
 ‘ in the tenderest terms they declared his danger.
 ‘ He received their account with the utmost com-
 ‘ posure, and thanked them for their ingenuity.
 ‘ He begged to see his friends before the ago-
 ‘ nies of death came on, as the taking leave
 ‘ of them was the only worldly concern he had
 ‘ to transact. This account was brought
 ‘ us by the physicians who attended us to his
 ‘ chamber. I walked between Mr. Grenville
 ‘ and Louisa: we entered with silent sorrow!
 ‘ My dear father was sitting up, apparently
 ‘ easy; we all ranged ourselves round the bed;
 ‘ and after some little efforts to stifle his feel-
 ‘ ings at this melancholy parade, he addressed
 ‘ us as follows; “ The sight of you, my ami-
 ‘ able children, and much esteemed friends, at
 ‘ these solemn and closing moments of my life,
 ‘ softens the pain of dissolution, and disarms
 ‘ death of half its horrors. I am going to
 ‘ join the mother of my Adeline in a better
 ‘ world: I have not a regret at leaving this,
 ‘ but being separated from my friends. When
 ‘ my beloved wife left this abode of mortality,
 ‘ my greatest earthly comfort was taken from
 ‘ me.

' me. Impatient under my loss, I frequently
 ' petitioned the Almighty to take me also; but
 ' it pleased his goodness to continue me longer
 ' in this world to see my darling brought up,
 ' and in a way to be happy. Let her misfor-
 ' tunes be what they will, she has so good a
 ' heart, and so just a sense of religion, that she
 ' will not sink, though she may for a time
 ' yield to them. Her superiority of soul will
 ' conquer the weakness of her nature, and she
 ' will soar above it.

' I do not expect, my Adeline, you should
 ' behold me dead without emotion; nature,
 ' my child, will be satisfied, How often have
 ' you seen me sleeping? reflect it is only the
 ' emblem changed into reality; and though
 ' you now mourn me, a little time will make
 ' you mourned for! then we shall be exquisitely
 ' happy in a blessed Eternity. Let that con-
 ' sideration comfort you, my child, and all my
 ' dear friends. It has pleased God to give me
 ' many days; I am an old man, and therefore
 ' in the ordinary course of nature, could not
 ' long survive. I have ended my part, and am
 ' going to quit the stage. I hope I have done
 ' pretty well; and, through the mercy of him
 ' who died for me, shall have lasting peace.
 ' My worldly concerns are all settled; I have
 ' left you a good fortune, Adeline; tho' my
 ' estate goes from you, you will have enough
 ' to

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‘ to make you happy and contented. I have
‘ appointed Mr. Somners as your guardian;
‘ at whose request I have likewise named Mr.
‘ Evelin, tho’ merely as a matter of form. I
‘ should have begged the favour of your Lord-
‘ ship’s assistance, (continued my father) had
‘ not that been giving you an unnecessary trou-
‘ ble. My friends will find something in my
‘ will as a small expression of gratitude for the
‘ many favours they have heaped on me. My
‘ servants also will find they have been all re-
‘ membered by me: as to you, Augustus, I
‘ leave you a treasure in my Adeline that no
‘ wealth can purchase; may you be happy to-
‘ gether.” He ceased; all seemed absorbed
‘ in sorrow, and a profound silence prevailed.
‘ My senses were so stupified with grief, that I
‘ was unable to shed a tear, and stood like a
‘ monument of woe. After a little time my
‘ father again proceeded.

“ Let me intreat you once more, my dearest
‘ friends, and beloved children, not to suffer
‘ your concern for my loss to hurt or impair
‘ your own health. Live, and enjoy the many
‘ comforts Heaven has allotted you, nor let the
‘ death of an insignificant old man break in
‘ upon your happiness. For you, my daughter,
‘ you will indeed lose a father who tenderly lo-
‘ ved you, but that loss will be made up to you
‘ by the Earl and Mr. Somners. You will be
‘ happy

' happy in a husband who will adore you : in justice to these blessings grieve not immoderately. Approach, Augustus and Adeline, once more let me join your hands." Mr. Grenville led me almost insensible to him : I dropped involuntarily on my knees ; he took our hands, and pressing them between his, " God preserve you, my excellent children, (said he) may no unforeseen accident intervene to prevent your union." He raised his eyes intreatively to Heaven, and was silent a minute ; then looking on us with infinite composure, who knelt, speechless with grief, at his bedside, " I affect you too much, my dear children ; retire." He embraced us both without shedding a tear. Mr. Grenville raised, and seated me : he took the same tender leave of Louisa, who like myself, was totally absorbed in grief.

' The Earl and Mr. Somners approached towards him. " Friends of my early days, (said he) adieu ! comfort each other ; I shall soon be happy ; I need not tell you to take care of my child." They both withdrew to the window, where sat the two physicians, who were deeply affected at this solemn parting. The Countess and Mrs. Somners lastly he embraced, and bid farewell, which, when he had done, " It is now over, (said he) the

' bit-

' bitterness of death is past : this solemn adieu
 ' we will take no more, my dear friends. I
 ' will see you by-and-by, if I am well enough,
 ' but at present I am fatigued." We all left
 ' the room ; I attempted not to stay, but suffered
 ' them to lead me where they pleased. Altho'
 ' I was incapable of making resistance, or shed-
 ' ding a tear, yet my senses retained every word
 ' my dear father uttered ; and at this distance
 ' of time, my heart is as feelingly alive to his
 ' loss, nay more, than at the first hour I knew
 ' of it.

' We all retired in silence as we came, and
 ' waited with anxious expectation to hear how
 ' he was. To the various enquiries I made,
 ' the answer was, that he continued very
 ' drowsy. We hoped from this that he might
 ' be better, but the physicians damped them
 ' again, by saying it was a common circum-
 ' stance for a person to sleep when a mortifica-
 ' tion was coming on. Thus torn by a thou-
 ' sand apprehensions, we continued a conside-
 ' rable time. We were all too much affected
 ' to comfort each other: Mr. Grenville once
 ' or twice attempted to say something to give
 ' me consolation, but the violence of his own
 ' emotions stopped his voice, and he was
 ' obliged to be silent.

' Thus did we continue for near three hours,
 ' when my maid burst into the room in the
 ' greatest

"greatest fright. "Oh, madam! (said she)
 "I fear my dear master is dying! the pain is
 "returned, and he cannot speak." "Oh, my
 "God! (exclaimed I) give me fortitude to sup-
 "port this tryal! I will once more behold my
 "dear father while he yet lives."---I arose, the
 "rest did the same: we went to his chamber;
 "but, oh Heavens! to behold a sight hardly
 "supportable. On the bed lay my beloved pa-
 "rent, speechless and insensible, torn by the
 "most violent agonies! I could not bear this
 "sight, and was carried senseless to my cham-
 "ber.

"When I recovered, I asked after my father;
 "the Countess, and Mrs. Sommers sat by the
 "bed, drowned in tears. Louisa and my Au-
 "gustus were both by me, in the deepest afflic-
 "tion.---How is my father, madam? (said I
 "to the Countess, who was nearest me) she
 "turned her face from me, but said not a word:
 "I addressed myself to all in the same manner,
 "but they continued silent. "Alas, (said I)
 "clasping my hands together, he is no more!"
 "I fell into the most violent agony of grief ima-
 "ginable, which they suffered to have way.
 "When it was a little abated, Lady Bromfield
 "took one hand, and Augustus the other.

"Compose yourself, my dear Child, (said
 "the Countess) and mourn not your amiable
 "father, who is now beyond the reach of pain.

'Re-

‘Remember his injunctions, my Adeline, and
 ‘obey them: you have payed a tribute to na-
 ‘ture and affection, suffer then your reason to
 ‘moderate your grief, and learn to submit to
 ‘the will of your maker. We must all part at
 ‘some time, heaven knows how soon: it has
 ‘pleased its high wisdom to call your father
 ‘now, for reasons to our finite capacities too
 ‘great to be comprehended. Think, my
 ‘child, if your dear father can know at this
 ‘moment what is passing here, he will see his
 ‘darling disobeying his last injunctions; and
 ‘by a vain lamentation hurting her own
 ‘health. And what do you mourn? that he has
 ‘escaped this vale of flesh, full of years, and
 ‘good actions, that through the passport of
 ‘pain and death, he is now fixed in a blessed
 ‘immortality? He has sustained his burden
 ‘well, and is now eased of it: lament then no
 ‘longer, my daughter, this happy change;
 ‘but rather rejoice that he is past the trial. For
 ‘my sake, and the sakes of your still surviving
 ‘friends, sink not beneath this weight of woe,
 ‘that like the dew upon the lily, bears down
 ‘thy tender frame.”

‘Here ceased the Countess: her words sunk
 ‘deep into my soul, and I found myself more
 ‘reigned. Mrs. Somners used the same per-
 ‘suasive arguments, as did my Louisa. Lastly,
 ‘Mr. Grenville sighing, addressed me thus.

“For

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“ For my sake, Adeline, give not way to sorrow; reflect, on your life hangs my happiness: was any thing to deprive me of you, my senses would be the sacrifice. This dear hand is mine by your ever revered father’s gift: recover yourself then, my love; nor by unavailing tears and melancholy, droop over the grave of your departed parent. Thou cannot call him thence; raise then your eyes from the cold shades of death, and live resigned to Heaven’s decree. He died not by any violent or unnatural means, but gently passed, after a long continuance here, to peace, and endless bliss.” He stopped.

“ The struggle in my breast was great; sincerely did I pray for some composure: I felt it dawn upon my soul. “ ’Tis past; (I cried) the conflict is over, and I shall be resigned. Yet suffer me, my dear, my tender friends, to mourn as nature prompts. I shall again raise my dim eyes from his regreted tomb, and live for you resigned and happy: for you, my loved Augustus, most. Yes, I am thine: this hand my father gave; believe, most dear of men, I never will disobey in the least his last beloved commands. They all embraced, and thanked me, stifling their own concern to lessen mine.

“ As I was better, I begged to rise; they consented, and we went to the drawing-room, where

' where we found the Earl and Mr. Somners.
 ' At the sight of them, my sorrows streamed
 ' afresh: they too were deeply affected; but
 ' tried, by every method in their power, to con-
 ' sole and comfort me. Thus passed a melan-
 ' choly week.

' The day before the remains of my dear fa-
 ' ther were to be deposited in the family vault,
 ' the Countess proposed our going to London.
 ' I desired to see my father, but they would not
 ' let me. Mr. Grenville on his knees begged
 ' me to lay aside my sad intention: as I found
 ' it gave him so much pain I yielded my desire,
 ' and with many tears, left the dear spot that
 ' gave me birth, where I had passed my inno-
 ' cent and playful childhood; and all the
 ' happy moments of my life. Once every
 ' beauty of creation seemed fixed and rooted
 ' here; but now no dreary waste was half so
 ' dreadful. On every countenance I saw grief
 ' sat enthroned: nay, even the rough unsoft-
 ' ened faces of the hardy villagers were moistened
 ' with a tear, while to each other pensively
 ' they said, "Alas, our generous master is no
 ' more!"

' The Earl and Mr. Somners staid to dis-
 ' charge the last sad duties to their friend.

' They bore me to the coach, and I had lost
 ' sight of the park before I knew it. When we
 ' had been a month in London, the Earl and
 ' Mr.

“ Mr. Somners returned, and brought with
 “ them my father’s will.

“ The family estate, which was very large,
 “ went to a distant branch of it, intire strangers
 “ to me; but Belville-park, and a small estate
 “ round it, descended to me under my mother’s
 “ settlement, as this was a purchase with part
 “ of her fortune; besides this, which amounted
 “ to fifteen hundred a year, my dear father had
 “ left me eighty thousand pounds: after several
 “ legacies, was the following article.

“ And herein I enjoin my beloved children,
 “ Augustus and Adeline, as they respect my
 “ memory, not to defer their marriage longer
 “ than six months after my death; but when
 “ that time is elapsed they shall be united;
 “ and may the ALMIGHTY bless and pre-
 “ serve them in all situations.”

“ When Mr. Somners came to this part,
 “ Mr. Grenville arose, and advanced to me.
 “ Does my Adeline consent to the condition
 “ of the will?” “ With all my heart, Au-
 “ gustus.” (replied I) Then rising, and taking
 “ it from Mr. Somners, I put it to my lips;
 “ Most religiously, my ever lamented father,
 “ will thy Adeline comply with those injunc-
 “ tions.” Then again kissing it, I gave it to
 “ Mr. Somners. Mr. Grenville folded me in
 “ his

his arms, and pulling out his handkerchief, withdrew to the window.

As the reading the will was now over, I retired with Louisa to my chamber, and after spending some hours in serious reflexions, we returned to the company.

Soon after this the Earl proposed that we should all go with him to spend a few weeks at Grenville-abbey. We consented: Lord William went with us, who had been absent during my loss; he shared in our concern, and, like us, appeared in deep mourning.

When we arrived at Grenville-abbey, my Augustus sought to amuse me by every method in his power, and Lord William assisted. Various parties of pleasure were formed, and I never refused to join in them. By the time we had been at the Earl's seat two months, I became more chearful; all the family strove by every tenderness in their power to banish the remembrance of my loss, and it had the desired effect. My amiable Augustus grew every day more dear to me; he never left me. In the mornings we either rode or walked; sometimes he would read while Louisa and I worked; at others, entertain us with accounts of what had happened at Oxford. In this pleasing manner we passed away two months, continually engaged in diversions of one sort or other; concerts, balls, and often

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‘ masquerades, as Lord William was peculiarly fond of those entertainments, and the Earl and Countess were so indulgent to their children, that they never contradicted their inclinations.

‘ My beloved father had been now dead three months, and we were preparing to go to London, my Augustus talking with the greatest rapture of the time that should make me his. We often walked alone a distance from the Abbey: one morning we had strayed farther than usual, and not minding where we went, lost our way. We came to a most delightful valley, where nature seemed to sport at large; a clear winding stream ran through the midst as far as the eye could trace, and lost itself in a neighbouring wood; all round the vale were high hills, whose tops seemed to reach the heavens; on the green verdure numberless sheep and oxen were feeding; the gurgling of water, which fell from some eminence, though we could not discover where, most delightfully filled up the pauses of nature’s choristers, and altogether this was the most romantic scene I had ever beheld. We looked about some time to find a house whose inhabitants might inform us to what place we had wandered, but no cottage could we see. As it was now mid-day, and the sun very warm, Mr. Grenville seeing me fatigued,

‘tigated, proposed setting down: we did so,
‘under the shade of a large tree. “How
‘happy, my Adeline, (said this best of men)
‘could I be in this sequestered spot, blessed
‘with thy dear society and an easy compe-
‘tency! How far more delightful the beauty
‘and innocence of these shades, to all the
‘pomp and pride of the great world! here
‘might we live exempt from every care, save
‘what our love suggested!” “True, Au-
‘gustus, answered I; we might be happy in
‘this peaceful solitude, most exquisitely happy,
‘had you been born the son of some rustic
‘swain, and I the daughter of some neighbour-
‘ing cottager, we might have loved as now,
‘have lived content; but oh! what thousand
‘exquisite delights had we then both been
‘strangers to, which birth and education now
‘have given us! We might have had a ten-
‘der feeling for another’s woe, but we should
‘not have been able to relieve it. Now, blest
‘as we are with this world’s wealth, we can
‘throw around our wide diffusive charity, can
‘cheer the heart oppressed, and from the bed
‘of want raise the poor mourner: together we
‘may drive despair away, fix in the lowly roof
‘content and ease, and at the same moment be-
‘nefit ourselves. Think, my Augustus, how
‘much we are distinguished by the hand of
‘providence, placed in a situation to make

‘ thousands happy. Blessed with the means,
 ‘ we can with ease pursue our inclinations, and
 ‘ by our well-placed bounty, make glad a little
 ‘ world.

“ My lovely moralist, answered Augustus,
 ‘ we can, we will pursue this noble path that
 ‘ leads to happiness and immortality; with thee,
 ‘ my Adeline, I will seek the house of poverty,
 ‘ and scatter comfort round it. We will cheer the
 ‘ aged heart, and make the leaping infant smile
 ‘ for joy! Thy gentleness, my love, shall lead
 ‘ my warm and wayward temper, and be my
 ‘ guide and comfort. Yes, I am sensible of
 ‘ heaven’s peculiar care. Where is a man for
 ‘ happiness marked out like thy Augustus?
 ‘ Who is it can say he has a bride like thee?
 ‘ none, none, my charmer; thy equal lives
 ‘ not. Oh! I am blessed beyond the lot of
 ‘ mortals; my heart’s oppressed with gratitude
 ‘ to heaven, and my weak nature hardly can
 ‘ support my feelings!” “ If ever mortal merit-
 ‘ ed felicity, it is you, Mr. Grenville; I hope
 ‘ I shall be ever grateful to the bounteous hand
 ‘ that dealt out joy so largely. I trust thy
 ‘ Adeline will never forfeit by imprudence the
 ‘ love you have for her.” He was about to an-
 ‘ swer when the appearance of a number of
 ‘ children prevented him. They had got a
 ‘ lamb, which they had decorated with bits of
 ‘ ribbons, and stuck various flowers in his
 ‘ fleece:

'fleece: a girl of about six years old, led him
 'along by a blue ribbon that was fastened round
 'his neck. The pretty creature frisked about
 'his mistress, who frequently stopped to pat his
 'head, and give him something she held in her
 'hand to eat. This innocent scene delight-
 'ed us, and we sat still to see what they would
 'do. They walked on till they came to a little
 'eminence, on which they seated the mistress
 'of the lamb who lay down at her feet, the
 'others went a distance from her, and then
 'one by one returned, each presenting her
 'with a flower which they took from a bas-
 'ket one of the boys carried. She receiv-
 'ed them all, and made a wreath which
 'she put on the forehead of her favourite; she
 'then arose, and lifted him in the place she had
 'occupied; and joined her companions, who
 'altogether danced round him. When this
 'dance was finished, they were preparing to
 'retire. I proposed to Mr. Grenville we should
 'follow them; we did so, and saw them strike
 'into a narrow path that led out of the valley;
 'thither we also went, and perceived them en-
 'ter a farm house that stood beneath the shelter
 'of a hill. We followed, and knocked at the
 'door; a venerable old man opened it, who
 'seemed surprized at our appearance. Mr.
 'Grenville asked him how far we were from
 'the Earl of Bromfield's, and which was the

' nearest way to it, as we had lost ourselves?
 " Alack, sir, answered the old man, you are
 ' full three miles from Grenville-Abbey; but
 ' if you please to walk in and take any refresh-
 ' ment, one of my grandsons shall shew you
 ' the best way. We accepted this kind invi-
 ' tation, and he led us into a neat parlour,
 ' where sat a pretty looking woman. " Daugh-
 ' ter, said the old man, here is a gentleman
 ' and lady who have lost their way, cannot you
 ' get them something to eat? You shall have
 ' what my homely board affords, continued he,
 ' with all my heart; if you can make a meal
 ' of it, do and welcome." She immediately
 ' left the room, but soon returned with our
 ' provisions. She spread upon a white deal
 ' table a clean cloth, and set before us bread
 ' and butter, the best I ever tasted; a dish of
 ' cream and another of fresh strawberries. As
 ' we were both very hungry, we made as good
 ' a meal of this homely fare as ever we did in
 ' our lives of the most sumptuous entertain-
 ' ment. While we were eating, we enquired
 ' about the children we had seen. The wo-
 ' man said they were her's, and had been out
 ' at play the whole morning. They soon re-
 ' turned with their lamb. The little girl led
 ' him to her grandfather. The old man seemed
 ' delighted with her. Augustus and I were
 ' enchanted with this scene of rural happiness,
 ' and

' and took a great deal of notice of the chil-
 ' dren, who were eight in number. Having fi-
 ' nished our repast, we thanked the old man for
 ' his hospitality; and Mr. Grenville left five
 ' guineas with the little girl. We took our
 ' leave; the eldest boy, by his grandfather's
 ' order, shewing us the way. We soon knew
 ' where we were, and dispatched our guide
 ' with a present for himself and the rest of his
 ' brothers. All the way we talked of nothing
 ' but the benevolence and hospitality of our
 ' kind entertainers. The inhabitants of the
 ' Abbey expressed their joy at seeing us, as
 ' they feared some accident had happened that
 ' occasioned our stay. We related our little
 ' adventure, with which they were greatly en-
 ' tertained.

' Soon after this event, we all returned to
 ' town: Mr. Grenville was continually with
 ' us. Here passed two months longer in peace-
 ' ful delight. The whole family now talked
 ' of our marriage as an event that was speedily
 ' to take place. I had recovered my sorrow in
 ' a great degree, and was looking forwards to a
 ' long season of happiness in being united to
 ' this amiable youth. As to Augustus, no
 ' words could do justice to his transports. The
 ' near approach of our union made him almost
 ' frantic with joy. My beloved parent had
 ' now been dead more than five months, and

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' our marriage was fixed for that day fortnight.
 ' A few evenings before the intended celebra-
 ' tion, the Earl addressed Mr. Somners as
 ' follows : " There remains but one article of
 ' our friend's will to be executed, and that
 ' will shortly be done in the marriage of my
 ' son and Miss Belville. The fortune August-
 ' us will have, is not extremely large, but
 ' enough to make him happy. His grandfather
 ' left him fifty thousand pounds, to which I
 ' will add an estate of my own, which I meant
 ' to give him whenever he married, or at my
 ' death. This is worth little better than four
 ' thousand a year, which, with Adeline's for-
 ' tune, will make them rich enough." My
 ' dear Mr. Grenville thanked his father for
 ' his bounty in terms of the liveliest gratitude.
 ' " Say no more, my son, interrupted the
 ' Earl, I would do more for you if I had it in
 ' my power. My eldest son will have a noble
 ' estate; and shall not my Augustus be pro-
 ' vided for?" Thus were things determined,
 ' our clothes bought, and every thing ready.
 ' Louisa shared our joy, and all our happiness
 ' was exquisite. Two nights before our mar-
 ' riage, Mr. Grenville spent the evening in
 ' Grosvenor-Square; the Earl and Countess
 ' were likewise with us. They were all in
 ' high spirits except myself; an unaccountable
 ' dejection oppressed my mind, which I tried
 ' in

' in vain to shake off. Mr. Grenville perceived
 ' it, and tenderly strove to banish my appre-
 ' hensions. I concealed my uneasiness as well
 ' as I could, and we passed a happy evening. I
 ' parted with regret from Augustus, who was
 ' to dine with us next day at his father's.
 ' When I retired, Louisa took notice of my
 ' behaviour. "What made you so low to-
 ' night, Adeline? said she, did any thing af-
 ' fect you with which I am unacquainted?"
 "No, Louisa: I cannot tell what made me
 ' melancholy, but I have been uncommonly so
 ' this night; I am very well, and have no un-
 ' easiness whatever." She strove to talk me
 ' out of my vapours, but her endeavours were
 ' not crowned with success. The next morn-
 ' ing, I had quite recovered my spirits. We
 ' dressed early, and went to the Earl's: Mr.
 ' Grenville was out as well as Lord William.
 ' The latter came in, and enquired for his
 ' brother; but finding he was not returned, he
 ' said he supposed he had met with some friend
 ' that detained him. This satisfied us very well,
 ' and we waited till three, but he came not.
 ' The Countess was alarmed, as he never stayed
 ' out, especially when he knew I was to dine
 ' there. Ten thousand dreadful ideas crouded
 ' on my mind, that might account for his ab-
 ' sence. I was in the utmost distress. We
 ' waited till five, but still he came not: the

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‘ Countess and I were little short of madness.
 ‘ Dinner was served up, but no dinner could
 ‘ we touch. The Earl sent every where he
 ‘ could think of, but could hear nothing of
 ‘ his son. About half past five we heard a most
 ‘ violent knocking at the door. “Thank
 ‘ God, he is come!” (exclaimed Lady Brom-
 ‘ field) and hastened to meet him. I would
 ‘ have followed her, but my feet refused their
 ‘ office; I sunk down on a sofa. A loud
 ‘ scream from the Countess made me start, but
 ‘ I was not capable of standing. The Earl
 ‘ and Mr. Somners ran down stairs to see what
 ‘ was the matter: Mrs. Somners and Louisa
 ‘ stayed with me. “What means that scream,
 ‘ Louisa?” demanded I. “Alas, Adeline, I
 ‘ know not,” answered she. Before she could
 ‘ say more, I saw Augustus brought up stairs
 ‘ between two servants, pale, bloody, and to
 ‘ all appearance dead.

‘ Had a dagger been plunged deep in my
 ‘ heart, I could not have felt more; I fell
 ‘ back in the arms of Mrs. Somners, unable to
 ‘ support myself; every faculty was chilled
 ‘ with horror, but I lost not my senses; I saw
 ‘ him still. Louisa came to me; “Speak, my
 ‘ Adeline, said she: why do you fix your eyes
 ‘ so piteously upon the door? oh, answer me,
 ‘ or this silence will kill me.” I knew what
 ‘ she said, but could not answer: I pointed to
 ‘ the

' the stairs, which were stained with blood.
 ' Louisa wrung her hands in an agony; Mrs.
 ' Somners held mine; "For heaven's sake,
 ' Miss Belville, (said she) speak; say but a
 ' word, my child and I am easy: I know your
 ' trial is almost too much for humanity, but
 ' speak, my sweet sufferer, if it is in your
 ' power." I strove several times; at last I
 ' found my voice----" Did I not see Augustus,
 ' madam?" said I. "Alas, my dear, you
 ' did!" "I thought so!" I wept not, nor at
 ' the moment could have wept for worlds. For
 ' a time I was almost mad, and yet I remember
 ' every thing that passed, and ever shall. I
 ' walked to Miss Somners, who was crying
 ' and wringing her hands. "Louisa, come
 ' hither," said I. (I led her to the door):
 ' "That blood is Mr. Grenville's; yes, I know
 ' 'twas my Augustus that was carried bleeding
 ' up stairs." She flung her arms about me:
 ' "O Adeline, Adeline! this indifference kills
 ' me. What shall we do, madam? (said she
 ' to her mother) this dear girl will lose her
 ' senses." She led me to the sofa: I set with
 ' my eyes fixed upon the door, Mrs. Somners
 ' and Louisa weeping by me. The Earl came
 ' into the room; "My God, what will be-
 ' come of me! (exclaimed he) I shall lose both
 ' my wife and son!" He set down in a chair;
 ' the tears streamed from his eyes. "Oh, my
 ' Lord,

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“Lord, (cried Mrs. Somners) I fear our Adeline will be mad; she has not shed a tear, and talks of Mr. Grenville without any emotion.” I arose and went to him, and with my handkerchief wiped his eyes. “Why do you cry, my Lord? you see I do not; let us go and see Augustus.” He clasped me in his arms: “Alas, my wretched girl, said he, thy reason’s touched; where will this complicated misery end!”

“A servant came and told us Mr. Grenville shewed signs of life, and that the surgeon was come, who hoped his wound was not mortal, though he could not tell for certain till he had probed it. “I thank thee, O my God, (returned the Earl, raising his eyes), for this small gleam of comfort! preserve to me my son, if it should be thy gracious will, and I am happy!” He followed the servant out of the room, as Mr. Somners entered. His wife told him how I had behaved: he strove to make me shed tears, but without effect. “Alas, my dear, (said he, turning to Mrs. Somners) never was there a family of such distress! Lord William stands in stupid sorrow by his brother’s bedside; the Countess is carried senseless to her chamber; and my gentle Adeline is almost deprived of her reason! What will become of us! (continued he) support yourself, my Elvira; Lady Brom-

“Bromfield and Miss Belville will need your assistance. Oh had Sir Edward lived to see this sight, it would have broke his worthy heart!” He wiped his eyes, and we were all silent a considerable time.

“Lord William came into the room; “How is your brother, my Lord?” (said Mr. Somners) “He lives, sir, answered he, and that is all: the surgeon fears his wound is mortal, and no human aid can save him. Augustus begs to see his Adeline.” “Then heaven have mercy on us! (cried Mr. Somners, and taking my hand) come, my dear child, we will go and see Mr. Grenville.” They all followed us: the sight of him immediately banished the stupor from my brain, and I recovered to a full sense of my misery. He lay extended on the bed; his countenance looked the abode of death: on one side sat the Earl, on the other the Countess, who was just recovered from her fit; their eyes were fixed on their dying child with unutterable anguish. I flew to the bedside, and throwing myself on my knees, took his cold hand, which I bathed with my tears. This expression of my grief gave infinite ease to my heart, that was before upon the point of breaking. “Oh, my Augustus, said I, and is it thus we meet!” I could not proceed. He faintly pressed my hand, and cast his eyes
4 upon:

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‘ upon me. “ To part with thee, my Adeline,
 ‘ my only love, (said he) is worse than death.
 ‘ Oh, grant me strength, my God, to comfort
 ‘ her before you take me hence, and I now ask
 ‘ no more: but I fear the inexorable death will
 ‘ snatch me from you before I can inform you
 ‘ how this fatal wound was given. Alas, my
 ‘ end is nigh: adieu, my Adeline! farewell, my
 ‘ mother!”---He closed his eyes, we thought
 ‘ for ever. This sight overcame my exhausted
 ‘ spirits, and I fell senseless by him.

‘ When I recovered, I saw my dear Augustus
 ‘ tenderly looking on me: he had only
 ‘ fainted from loss of blood. Another surgeon
 ‘ now arrived: Mr. Grenville begged me to re-
 ‘ tire while his wound was again examined. I
 ‘ did so, with the Countess, Mrs. Somners,
 ‘ and Louisa. Lady Bromfield took me by the
 ‘ hand; “ my dearest Adeline, (said she) this
 ‘ second shock thy tender nature has received,
 ‘ I fear, will be too much for thee to bear. I
 ‘ find this day has given me my death’s-wound,
 ‘ as well as my Augustus: I never shall again
 ‘ look up: For thee, my lovely girl, I feel se-
 ‘ verely; I lose a justly valued son; but you
 ‘ the best of lovers.” She raised her streaming
 ‘ eyes to Heaven; “ Yet hold, my heart, if it
 ‘ be thy wise decree, and let me still survive
 ‘ to support this poor mourner.” My tears
 ‘ flowed incessantly; Mrs. Somners and Louisa
 ‘ strove

‘ strove to comfort us, but their own sorrow
 ‘ almost deprived them of articulation.

‘ Thus did we continue for near an hour,
 ‘ when the Earl and Mr. Somners joined us,
 ‘ with the two surgeons. I ran towards them,
 ‘ say, gentlemen, will Mr. Grenville live?
 ‘ Oh, say he will, and I will kneel to you.”
 ‘ I clasped my hands together: they were both
 ‘ affected, and pulled out their handkerchiefs.
 ‘ The eldest of them took my hand, and led me
 ‘ to the sofa; “ be comforted, young lady,
 ‘ (said he) and learn to bear your misfortune
 ‘ like a christian. It pains me to inform you
 ‘ the wound Mr. Grenville has received is be-
 ‘ yond the art of man to cure. Your trial is
 ‘ very great, but consider, madam, you can-
 ‘ not ease a pang of his by this excess of grief.”
 ‘ Alas, I know it; (replied I) Oh, would to
 ‘ heaven I could, these eyes should never cease
 ‘ to flow, till I had drained the sluices of my
 ‘ tears, and my poor brain was dry. But he
 ‘ must die; no tears can save him from the
 ‘ grave; his virtues must now lie buried in the
 ‘ silent tomb: he will be shut for ever from these
 ‘ eyes. No longer I shall hear him speak, once
 ‘ my delight and comfort: when he is gone
 ‘ what will become of me? left in the world
 ‘ neglected and forlorn. Oh, sir, you knew
 ‘ not half the virtues of my Augustus; indeed
 ‘ you did not. You would not wonder at my
 ‘ grief

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“grief if you had known them: he loved me too, beyond himself he loved me! and shall I not lament when he is dying?”

“I could not go on, my tears stopped my voice. The old gentleman looked on me with great compassion: “Alas, (said he) this is a piteous sight! so fair a blossom drooping with her sorrows. I have lived many a day, but never saw so heart-rending a scene.” The Countess arose, and folded me in her arms. “Cease, cease, my Adeline, (said she) I cannot bear your pathetic language; you will kill me with your sorrow.” The Earl came to her, and took her hand. “Compose yourself, my love; (said he) we must submit to the will of Heaven; stay not with this affecting girl, but spare your husband the shock of seeing you reduced to a sick-bed.” They were going from the room, but I threw myself on my knees before them. “O stay, my Lord, (cried I) I will no more afflict the Countess; no, I will comfort her: am I not her daughter? Forgive my tears, they shall no longer flow, indeed they shall not.” The Earl raised me: “My child, (said he) you will break my heart: be more composed, my Adeline, or you will kill us all.” “Heaven forbid, my Lord, (answered I) yes, I will be composed; I will learn to bear my griefs. I lost my father six months ago;

' ago; but what of that? I wept his loss, but
 ' then I had Augustus to comfort me; who now
 ' shall comfort me? why, I shall never be
 ' comforted: I was marked out for woe, and
 ' yet I hope I am not impatient. Fain would
 ' I be resigned, but my sad heart is torn with
 ' anguish." Lord William entered, and in-
 ' formed us his brother had greatly recovered
 ' his strength, and wished to see us. The Earl
 ' turned to the surgeons; "What shall we do,
 ' gentlemen? may we indulge my son?" They
 ' told him we might, for no power on earth
 ' could save him; and that they feared his
 ' strength would not last long, therefore we
 ' had better take this opportunity. I said I
 ' would follow them directly, and begged them
 ' to go first: they did so, all but Louisa, who
 ' staid with me. I knelt down, and prayed for
 ' courage to support me in this dreadful inter-
 ' view. I arose more resigned, and taking Miss
 ' Somners by the arm; "come now, my
 ' friend, (said I) we will go. I have prayed,
 ' Louisa, for assistance from him that can alone
 ' afford it in my distressed condition. I know
 ' my God will not desert me, tho' every earthly
 ' comfort may." "Preserve that frame of
 ' mind, my dearest Adeline, (answered she)
 ' and you will rise superior to your woe, as
 ' your prophetick father foretold you would."
 "Ah, so he did: I will try, Louisa, but I
 ' am

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‘ am very weak.” I wiped my eyes, and walked
 ‘ to the apartment of Augustus: he was sit-
 ‘ ting up in bed supported by pillows. As soon
 ‘ as I appeared he held out his hand. “ My
 ‘ love, said he, I have waited for you to begin
 ‘ my melancholy tale; but ah, my Adeline, I
 ‘ cannot bear your tears. My hapless warmth
 ‘ of temper has brought misery on you; for-
 ‘ give me, my injured bride! forgive your pe-
 ‘ nitent Augustus. Oh that this fatal day
 ‘ could be recalled, I might be happy! but it
 ‘ is past, and I am justly punished.”

‘ He ceased, and wiped his eyes: I threw
 ‘ my arms about him; “ Alas, my dearest
 ‘ Grenville, said I, talk not thus; I do for-
 ‘ give you: nay, had you plunged a dagger in
 ‘ this faithful bosom, I dying should have par-
 ‘ doned you. But, tell me, who has stabbed
 ‘ my happiness; what cruel hand has robbed
 ‘ my heart of peace!” “ I thank thee, Ade-
 ‘ line, (answered he, returning my embrace)
 ‘ you have forgiven me, and I shall die con-
 ‘ tent: draw near, my friends, I cannot speak
 ‘ loud.” We ranged ourselves about him, and
 ‘ after stopping a moment, he proceeded thus:

“ I left this house in the morning with a
 ‘ firm design of returning to dinner. I met
 ‘ a friend whom I had known at Oxford, and
 ‘ walked with him in the park ’till near three:
 ‘ When he left me, I found I had half
 ‘ an

‘an hour to spare, and stepped into a coffee-
 ‘house to look over the papers. In the next box
 ‘to me sat several officers: they were talking
 ‘loud, but I did not attend to them ’till I
 ‘heard the name of Lord William Grenville
 ‘more than once repeated. “You won last
 ‘night, George,” said one of them. “Ay,
 ‘answered the other, but it was of that scoun-
 ‘drel, Lord William Grenville, who never
 ‘pays his debts.” Fired at this, I arose and
 ‘entered the box where they were sitting:
 ‘“Who is it that dares call Lord William
 ‘Grenville a scoundrel?” said I. “That, sir,
 ‘dare I, (cried one of them starting up) and
 ‘will affirm him to be a gamester and a vil-
 ‘lain.” “Take back the infamous appella-
 ‘tion, answered I, and know his brother will
 ‘defend his honour to the last drop of his blood.”
 ‘“And I maintain mine,” replied the officer.
 ‘We instantly quitted the coffee-house, and
 ‘repaired to Hyde-park, where, after giving
 ‘him several wounds, I received his sword
 ‘thro’ my body, and instantly fell. What
 ‘became of the rascal I know not. He
 ‘had me put into a chair, where, with
 ‘the vast effusion of blood, I fainted. I die,
 ‘Lord William, in defence of your honour,
 ‘which I could not bear to hear so falsely tra-
 ‘duced: I regret not leaving this world but
 ‘for my Adeline; with her I hoped to spend a
 ‘length

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length of happy years; but it is now over, and I must leave her, dear as she is! Inexorable death will not be satisfied without its prey, and I submit." Here my Augustus stopped; his account chilled every breast with horror! Lord William threw himself by his bedside; "And do you die for me?" (said he) "Alas! my brother, I have not merited your generous love! Oh, that curst Cooper, I will follow him to the world's end but I will revenge your death. It is too true, I lost a considerable sum last night, but would have paid him. Forgive me, my noble brother, or your innocent blood will rise against me!" He clenched his fist, and held it to his forehead. Rise, my dear William, said Mr. Grenville, I do forgive you from the bottom of my soul; but here I charge you leave all revenge to God. Enough of blood already has been shed: live, and comfort my parents, I soon shall be no more." He leaned forward to embrace Lord William, who was in agony of sorrow. "Thou art not accessory to my death; I heartily forgive the hand that killed me: farewell, my brother; act well, and we shall meet in a better world."

He seemed exhausted, and leaned back on his pillows. My eyes rained floods of tears, and every eye in the room payed a large tribute to our general sorrows. Lord William
 'arose,

' arofe, and flung himfelf at the feet of the
 ' Earl and Countefs, who fat together in one
 ' corner of the room; " Will you forgive the
 ' murderer of your Auguftus? faid he. O my
 ' dear father, pity my woe! How fhall I beg
 ' your pardon, madam, (to the Countefs) who
 ' have deftroyed your happinefs?" " I do, I
 ' do forgive you, (cried ſhe, falling on his
 ' neck) riſe, riſe, my fon; let me preferve one
 ' child at leaſt." The Earl confirmed his par-
 ' don. He arofe: " But here (faid he, turn-
 ' ing to me) dare I not ſue. Who ſhall ſupply
 ' her lofs? the friend, the lover, and the huſ-
 ' band! Oh, Adeline, I dare not hope for-
 ' givenefs; you can never look on the deſtroyer
 ' of your Auguftus, with eyes of pity." " I
 ' can, my Lord, I do forgive you, and beg
 ' you will be comforted." " I never ſhall
 ' know comfort, but I hope you may." I gave
 ' him my hand, which he preſſed to his lips,
 ' and haſtily left the room. " Thank you,
 ' my Adeline, ſaid Mr. Grenville, your be-
 ' haviour to my brother is noble like yourſelf:
 ' how ſhall I part with you? The big tears
 ' rolled down his cheeks, and he was almoſt
 ' choaked with grief. The Countefs, over-
 ' come by this ſcene, funk back in her chair,
 ' and for a time loſt the remembrance of her
 ' grief; ſhe was carried to her chamber: the
 ' Earl was little better. As ſoon as Mr. Gren-
 ' ville

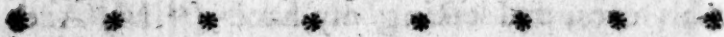
'ville had recovered himself, he continued
 'thus; "To part with thee, my Adeline, is
 "all my struggle; I have no fear of death be-
 'sides: 'tis losing thee alone that gives him
 'terror. I feel a comfort from within that tells
 'me I shall be happy; but yet to quit this
 'world just on the eve of my marriage with
 'thee, my best beloved, is a trial too hard to
 'be supported. I know thy gentle soul is link-
 'ed with mine; and we shall meet hereafter,
 'never more to part. I have one wish, my
 'love, that would make my breath glide gently
 'hence, if you would grant it." "Oh,
 'name it, answered I, and know thy wish shall
 'be my constant guide." "Thank you, my
 'Adeline, said he, I will tell you. When I
 'am gone, if ever any man should gain your
 'heart, let him be worthy, and he will love
 'your matchless worth as I have done: this,
 'my delicacy wishes you would promise."
 "Talk no more of that, my beloved August-
 'us, (answered I, kneeling down by his bed-
 'side) if it should please the heavenly power
 'that calls you hence, to keep me longer in
 'this desert world, no man shall ever have that
 'heart which has been yours: with you it
 'shall lie buried; nor shall any persuasions in-
 'duce me to break this resolution. While I
 'have life, it shall be solely employed for others
 'good, and preparations to meet you in a hap-
 'pier

' pier world, where we shall part no more.
 ' This thought alone, my Augustus, will keep
 ' my little bark from sinking beneath this tor-
 ' rent of adversity; but this will bear me up,
 ' and teach me to exist when you are gone."
 " Thou miracle of goodness! answered he,
 ' thou hast removed all that hung heavy on my
 ' parting soul. I know you will adhere to
 ' what you say, and never be another's." " Ah,
 ' witness heaven, I will, (answered I, wet-
 ' ting his dear hand with my tears): no,
 ' none, Augustus, never none but thee will
 ' raise a soft emotion in my heart. Thou wert
 ' my first, my last, and my only love." He
 ' tried to thank me, but his speech forsook
 ' him, and he fell senseless on the pillow. I
 ' thought him dead, and screamed aloud! The
 ' surgeon hastened to him, and assured me he
 ' still survived. My fright was so great that I
 ' was near as insensible as he was. He opened
 ' his eyes, and taking my hand; " My Ade-
 ' line, said he, death hurries on! one last em-
 ' brace, and then adieu for ever!" I heard no
 ' more; my senses had bore up a long while,
 ' but now sunk oppressed! I was conveyed to
 ' my own room, whither my distressed Louisa
 ' attended me. The greatest part of the night
 ' I continued in fits, but towards the morning,
 ' came entirely to myself. I would have gone
 ' to Augustus, but they by force prevented me.
 ' He

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‘ He was delirious, and knew nobody. They
‘ were obliged to tell me this, to keep me in
‘ my room. His wound had been dressed, but
‘ there were no hopes of his life.

‘ To describe my woe, is quite impossible ;
‘ I should have sunk beneath its weight, had
‘ not the pleasing thought of an hereafter pre-
‘ sented itself to my distressed mind. Louisa
‘ said all she could to comfort me ; but she
‘ was herself so shocked at his situation, that
‘ whenever she attempted to sooth my sorrow,
‘ she only discovered her own. Thus did we
‘ pass that day that was to have united me to
‘ my Augustus ; instead of bridal joy, sad tears
‘ and lamentations ! Oh, I can hardly bear
‘ the dreadful recollection ! Here must I pause,
‘ I cannot go on ; my heart now bleeds afresh,
‘ and weeps at every vein !



‘ After a week passed in endeavouring to
‘ bring my mind to a proper frame for conclūd-
‘ ing this melancholy recital, I have succeeded,
‘ and set down determined to go through with
‘ it. If this should ever reach the eye of any
‘ one, think what I suffered. Words are too
‘ faint

‘ faint to tell my sad sensations: the feeling
 ‘ heart alone can share them with me.

‘ I sent during the day continually to the
 ‘ apartments of Augustus and the Countess;
 ‘ he was insensible, and she continued ill. In
 ‘ the evening Mrs. Somners entered my room;
 ‘ her eyes red and swelled. “ I come, my dear
 ‘ Adeline, (said she) to bring you to a dreadful
 ‘ tryal; Mr. Grenville has recovered his senses,
 ‘ and wishes to take leave of us all together:
 ‘ support yourself, my child, (continued she)
 ‘ and remember your grief will encrease his
 ‘ dying pangs.” I promised her I would, and
 ‘ we went with her: the Countess was in his
 ‘ chamber, though very ill. None of the fa-
 ‘ mily but Lord William was absent; his dis-
 ‘ traction was so great he could not come.
 ‘ Mr. Grenville was sitting in his bed as the
 ‘ day before, but greatly altered; he seemed
 ‘ hardly able to draw his breath, and spoke
 ‘ with difficulty and haste, as if he feared he
 ‘ had not time to say what he wished.

“ Once more, my dear friends, (said he) it
 ‘ has pleased the Great Disposer of events to
 ‘ give me back my reason to behold you, and
 ‘ take a final leave. For your goodness, my
 ‘ Lord, (said he to his father) I shall petition
 ‘ the Almighty in my last moments to bless
 ‘ you; be still a father to my Adeline: I have
 ‘ not time to thank you as I ought for all you

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‘ have

‘ have done for me, but think my heart is truly
‘ sensible of your paternal love. To you, my
‘ mother, I am under various obligations: had
‘ it pleased heaven to have spared my life, I
‘ would have strove to deserve your tenderness;
‘ but it is past, and I hope you will bury all
‘ my faults with me in the grave.” He kissed
‘ her hand and paused a moment; then went
‘ on again: O, my dear parents, may you live
‘ long and happy in this world together!
‘ Mourn not your Augustus to prejudice your-
‘ selves; this trial past, he will for ever rest.”
‘ The Earl and Countess tenderly embraced
‘ him, but could not speak. “Tell my dear
‘ brother, continued he, I wish him happy,
‘ and charge him, if he ever loved me, not to
‘ revenge my death. One thing, my dearest
‘ father, more, and I have done: let my Ade-
‘ line have the legacy left me by grandfather.”
“ She shall, my son, answered the Earl, and
‘ everything that you desire shall be fulfilled.”
“ I thank you, my Lord, returned he; I have
‘ but one thing more to ask, which is, that I
‘ may sleep by the father of my love, near Bel-
‘ ville-park.” The Earl consented; he took a
‘ tender leave of Mr. and Mrs. Somners, who
‘ were so much affected that they could not stay
‘ in the room.

‘ His wretched father and mother sat in mute
‘ agony, their eyes intently fixed on their Au-
‘ gustus:

' gustus: the Earl held the hand of his Coun-
 ' tels, and endeavoured to comfort her, but his
 ' own sorrow prevented him. "Approach,
 ' my dear Louisa, said Mr. Grenville; I have
 ' but two trials more:----Farewel, beloved
 ' companion of my youth, comfort my Adeline
 ' for my loss; I ever loved you, and at this
 ' moment love you as tenderly as ever; may
 ' you be happy, my dearest girl, is the last wish
 ' of thy dying friend! I thank you for the
 ' many instances of affection you have shewn
 ' me: alas, Louisa, to part with friends so
 ' dear, is all the pain of dying!" He threw
 ' his arms about her, and embraced her for a
 ' minute, She almost fainted with her emo-
 ' tion, and was with difficulty led to a chair.
 ' I sat like a statue, motionless with woe. Mr.
 ' Grenville turned to me; he took my hand---
 "Ah, Adeline! this should have been our
 ' wedding-day; but I submit!" He cast his eyes
 ' with energy to heaven; those fine intelligent
 ' orbs prayed for resignation. Ah how changed
 ' from what I once knew them! dimmed by
 ' the approach of death, they faintly cast a
 ' tender glance on me, and he proceeded:----
 "This day, my love, will part, instead of
 ' joining you to, your Augustus; I die with
 ' resignation; no pang I dread but being torn
 ' from thee, my soul's best comfort! even at
 ' this awful moment, my heart as fondly doats

' on thee as ever, and my last look will hang
 ' on thy loved eyes. You have kindly pro-
 ' mised never to give this hand to any man
 ' alive: I thank thee, Adeline; that dear assu-
 ' rance mitigates the pain of leaving thee; bear
 ' up against the trials that assail you, and live;
 ' I know my death will tear thy tender heart
 ' with anguish insupportable; but still reflect,
 ' my love, that all I suffered was in parting
 ' from thee; that trial past, I live to endless
 ' joys. I feel, my Adeline, a kind assurance
 ' dawning on my soul, that I am called to hap-
 ' piness: when I have shaken off this load of
 ' clay, my better part will mount above the
 ' stars, and live for ever there. I have sought
 ' forgiveness for my rashness, and I feel it
 ' granted by the inward peace I am blessed
 ' with. Let this consideration comfort you
 ' and all my friends, that this is my last strug-
 ' gle; this tribute to the loud demands of na-
 ' ture, (continued he) is the last tears that I
 ' shall shed: I am growing faint."

' He leaned back on his pillow; I thought
 ' him dying. Frantick with grief, I wrung
 ' my hands, exclaiming, "O-stay, my loved
 ' Augustus, take me with thee! my life is
 ' linked with thine, and both together must
 ' have a period!" He faintly raised his eyes:
 "Again I am better, said he; I thank you, O
 ' my God, for this indulgence!" They
 ' brought

‘ brought him something to take, which seemed
 ‘ to revive him, and after some time he went on
 ‘ thus : “ Here is my picture, Adeline; I
 ‘ meant to give it you before, but deferred it
 ‘ ’till this moment; it has been finished a great
 ‘ while: when you look at it, remember me
 ‘ as one you loved; that is gone a journey,
 ‘ where you will quickly follow; and may the
 ‘ heavenly powers sustain thy sweetness in this
 ‘ heart-felt trial!”

‘ I pressed his much-loved image to my lips,
 ‘ but had no voice to thank him, save with my
 ‘ sobs and broken exclamations. He clasped
 ‘ me in his arms, that had hardly strength re-
 ‘ maining to hold me : “ I have talked much,
 ‘ he cried; life ebbs apace; adieu, my love,
 ‘ my Adeline!—His voice faltered, his arms
 ‘ let go their hold, and he sunk down in silence.

‘ The Countess screamed, and fainted; the
 ‘ Earl approached the bed, and looked upon
 ‘ him : “ Alas, my son!” said he, and hastily
 ‘ turned from us. I looked on him, but find-
 ‘ ing he did not stir, I took his hand; “ And
 ‘ art thou gone, Augustus! thy soul enlarged,
 ‘ hath left its earthly mansion: be it so! I will
 ‘ not profane this chamber with my sorrow,
 ‘ but when I am more composed, again will
 ‘ see thee. I pressed his hand to my lips, and
 ‘ arose: “ Come, my Louisa, he can no longer
 ‘ hear us!” She silently led me from the

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' room : I cast my eyes upon him at the door,
 ' and tore myself away. I would have given
 ' worlds to weep, but not a tear could I com-
 ' mand ; every face besides was washed with
 ' sorrow, but mine refused to flow ; and had
 ' this long continued, I fear my heart would
 ' have burst asunder. As soon as Mr. and Mrs.
 ' Somners heard all was over, they hurried to
 ' me. Louisa and I were sitting in the dining-
 ' room : " Alas, my Adeline, (said that amia-
 ' ble woman) now call forth all your resolu-
 ' tion ; your tryals need it all. What shall I
 ' say to comfort you ? had we not better leave
 ' this house, and return to our own ? Indeed
 ' we had, my child, (said Mr. Somners, taking
 ' my hand) your heart will be easier from this
 ' scene of your woe : come, let me lead you
 ' hence." " No, my dear friends, (answered
 ' I) here will I stay : Augustus gone, all
 ' places are alike indifferent." I took out his
 ' picture, and looked with the utmost delight
 ' on it. " Thou dear resemblance of the best
 ' of men, (cried I) thou shalt be ever my com-
 ' panion : he bid me think of him as one that
 ' went a journey, where I should quickly follow.
 ' Yes, I will think so ; I shall, indeed, soon
 ' follow you, Augustus, for sure my heart will
 ' break. I put up the picture, and took out my
 ' handkerchief, but I could not weep. Mrs.
 ' Somners clasped me in her arms. " Oh, talk
 ' no

' not so, my Adeline, I beseech you ! indeed I
 ' cannot bear it ; see how you pain your poor
 ' Louisa ! " I looked at her, and saw her bathed in
 ' tears, walking up and down the room in great
 ' distress : I went to her. " Forgive me, Louisa,
 ' I would not pain you, but I am hurt myself
 ' beyond all cure. (I put my hand to my heart)
 ' Here is the wound, Louisa, as deep as Gren-
 ' ville's. The cruel man stabbed two in wound-
 ' ing him : oh, I shall never more be happy : I
 ' am more miserable than I can tell you, and
 ' yet I cannot weep ; not give one tear to my
 ' Augustus ! and you have shed so many ; sure-
 ' ly this looks ungrateful, my Louisa : but my
 ' heart weeps blood." The dear girl fell at my
 ' knees : " Oh, Adeline, (said she) for hea-
 ' ven's sake be more composed, and suffer us to
 ' lead you from this mournful spot, or sure
 ' these dreadful scenes will turn your brain !"
 " No, rise my dear Louisa ; I shall be soon
 ' composed : I will not pain you more than I
 ' can help : but I feel much ; and so I know
 ' do you. Every body loved my Augustus, he
 ' was so good." Just at this moment the Earl
 ' came in : his grief was little short of madness ;
 ' for him my tears first flowed. He flew about
 ' the room like one distracted. I strove to com-
 ' fort him : he looked amazed : " And can
 ' thou, my sweet child, speak peace to me,
 ' (said he) while thy own heart is torn with

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‘equal anguish? Oh, Adeline, I blush for
 ‘my impatience. Yes, I will learn to bear of
 ‘thee, thou patient sufferer: if thou can
 ‘live resigned, surely I ought: if thou can no-
 ‘bly yield thy mind to Heaven’s decree, who
 ‘art cut off from every joy, in the warm spring
 ‘of youth, how should my aged head bend
 ‘meekly to the rod! yes, my dear child, I
 ‘will bear all the Almighty deigns to send,
 ‘Perhaps my wife will quickly follow my Au-
 ‘gustus; if so, I will submit: but yet I know
 ‘not how: I am distracted.” He hastily went
 ‘from us.

‘The Countess continued very ill, and death
 ‘seemed still to hover over the house, as if not
 ‘satisfied. I found I had exerted myself beyond
 ‘my strength, and was obliged to go to bed.
 ‘A fever came on, and for three weeks I con-
 ‘tinued insensible to my misfortunes, during
 ‘which time, the remains of my amiable Au-
 ‘gustus were deposited in the parish church,
 ‘near Belville-park.

‘The Earl and Countess were in a state of
 ‘the utmost dejection for the loss of Mr. Gren-
 ‘ville, and by the advice of their physicians,
 ‘were preparing to leave England with Lord
 ‘William. They would have taken me with
 ‘them, but the situation I was reduced to
 ‘would not allow of it. They both took the
 ‘tendrest leave of me, and the family of Mr.
 ‘Som-

‘ Somners. This circumstance had like to
 ‘ have brought me to the grave, it affected my
 ‘ spirits so extremely. Lord William begged
 ‘ to see me, but I was not able to bear the in-
 ‘ terview.

‘ Louisa and Mrs. Somners constantly at-
 ‘ tended me, and had it not been for their care
 ‘ I should have fell a victim to my woe. The
 ‘ Earl had payed the legacy Augustus had be-
 ‘ queathed me to Mr. Somners, a little before
 ‘ his departure. When they had been gone
 ‘ two months, and I was tolerably recovered,
 ‘ I begged my guardian, and his amiable wife
 ‘ to suffer me to go to Belville-park. They
 ‘ opposed this a great while; but I told them I
 ‘ should never be well till they indulged me;
 ‘ with reluctance they consented. I had never
 ‘ entered this once beloved house since the death
 ‘ of my father; and now I had likewise lost
 ‘ Augustus. I saw with a melancholy pleasure,
 ‘ the place that had been the scene of my early
 ‘ happiness. A prospect once opened on my
 ‘ youth, calm and serene, and seemed to pro-
 ‘ mise a long continuance of felicity. Blessed
 ‘ with a father good as mine; a circle of such
 ‘ amiable and affectionate friends, and beloved
 ‘ by the best of men, with a fervency of af-
 ‘ fection never equalled, what had I more to
 ‘ wish? I wished for nothing more: too fondly
 ‘ chained to earth by my attachments, I looked

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' for peace and joy ; it pleased the power who
 ' gave to take away. I lost the best of fathers,
 ' and wept his loss with tears of real sorrow :
 ' but I was still too much attached to life. I
 ' loved Augustus with the greatest fondness; he
 ' too was snatched away, and every hope of
 ' happiness below vanished with him. I rai-
 ' sed my thoughts from earth to heaven, and so
 ' resolved to spend my life, that I might hope
 ' to gain that blest abode hereafter. With
 ' thoughts like these I entered Belville house. I
 ' felt my sorrows most acutely, but I resigned
 ' myself to the will of my Creator as much as I
 ' was able. My weak heart would often get
 ' the better of my resolution, and yield too
 ' much to nature ; but then I prayed for cou-
 ' rage, and soon recovered myself. When our
 ' arrival was known in the village, the inha-
 ' bitants came crowding to see their dear young
 ' lady. I received them all : every tongue la-
 ' mented my Augustus: the old would dwell
 ' upon his early virtues, and the young upon
 ' his generosity and goodness, by which many
 ' had been benefited, and with their commen-
 ' dation mix their tears. I heard their various
 ' tales, and silently enjoyed with all the luxury
 ' of grief, my Grenville's praises. Louisa and
 ' her parents shared with me in every pain, and
 ' sent our humble neighbours from the park,
 ' with exulting hearts at their munificence.

' This

' This meeting over, I walked with my
 ' Louisa through every room, with melancholy
 ' pleasure. I stopped with reverence, for a mi-
 ' nute, in my father's chamber, and then pro-
 ' ceeded. My friend indulged my inclination,
 ' in every start of fancy, and by this means I
 ' became tranquil; and altho' not happy, yet
 ' I was resigned. Mr. and Mrs. Somners, as
 ' well as Louisa, rejoiced at the change in my
 ' mind, as well as health. They sincerely la-
 ' mented the death of Mr. Grenville, and
 ' therefore did not wonder at me. Every morn-
 ' ing I constantly found means to visit the
 ' vault where Augustus was interred, and pour
 ' a tribute of tears to his memory. I always re-
 ' turned more tranquil and resigned after this
 ' melancholy employment: the family were to-
 ' tally unacquainted with this circumstance,
 ' as they did not know there was a key to the
 ' vault in the house. I always stole from Lou-
 ' isa on pretence of walking in a retired part of
 ' the park by myself: she never attempted to
 ' interrupt me, and I continually enjoyed the
 ' melancholy pleasure of contemplating the
 ' gloomy mansions of mortality, while we staid
 ' at Belville-park.

' When the family of Lord Bromfield had
 ' been gone three months, we received a letter,
 ' from Lord William, informing us of the
 ' death of the Countess, and the ill state of
 ' health

' health his father was in. He wrote in a very
 ' penitent stile, and intreated my pardon for
 ' the misery he had occasioned me. The de-
 ' cease of this amiable woman renewed my
 ' grief. We all sincerely lamented her, and
 ' payed many tears to her memory. We pas-
 ' sed six months at the Park, in all which time
 ' I never omitted a day visiting the remains of
 ' my Augustus.

' We frequently heard of Lord William. By
 ' various accounts we received, he had en-
 ' tirely worn off the sorrow his brother's death
 ' had occasioned, and was as gay as ever. This
 ' shocked me very much; but I had been so
 ' long accustomed to painful events, that I
 ' now bore them habitually.

' Soon after this, Mr. Somners was hastily
 ' called to town, whither we attended him. I
 ' took a melancholy leave of the silent reposi-
 ' tory of Mr. Grenville, that had by use grown
 ' a comfort to me; and we came to London.
 ' Mrs. Somners and Louisa kindly allowed me
 ' to follow my inclination, and never pressed
 ' me to go into public. As I had lost my usual
 ' amusement in not being able to contemplate
 ' the silent mansions of the dead, I found a sa-
 ' tisfaction in writing, and therefore began
 ' this account. I was so interested in it, I
 ' determined to compleat it; and when I had
 ' done, I read it over with the utmost pleasure.

' From

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' From this employment, and relieving per-
 ' sons in distress, arose my only comfort. At
 ' the age of eighteen, which I had just attain-
 ' ed when this was finished, I had experienced
 ' a life of sorrow. At the season when others
 ' are gay and lively, I was grave and tired of
 ' life. I still supported myself with chearful-
 ' ness; and, by that means, made happy my
 ' friends. By degrees, they drew me into com-
 ' pany and amusements; and as I found it gave
 ' them satisfaction, I complied. If ever this
 ' paper should fall into their hands, which it ne-
 ' ver will till my death, or to answer any hated
 ' intreaty to marry, they will find that chear-
 ' fulness I assumed, was merely to make them
 ' easy; but that my heart still groaned beneath
 ' its burden, and inwardly lamented my Au-
 ' gustus, on whose memory it still doats, and
 ' will continue to do till it beats no more.

ADELINE BELVILLE.

Colonel

Colonel MEDWAY to the Right Hon. Earl of
ARUNDEL.

Southwell-Castle.

I Return you, as you desired, the history of Miss Belville's former life. Oh, Arundel, what a woman is she! to be capable of bearing up, as she has done, under such complicated misery! I know not which feeling the perusal of her affecting narrative has excited most, my surprize or admiration. Never, surely, was there in so young a mind so much real piety. Alas, my Lord, this manuscript has banished all your hopes; you find she never will marry! she promised her dying Augustus, she never would; she will adhere to that promise, depend on it. Nay, I know your generous temper too well to imagine you will, after this, petition her to change her resolution. I share in your disappointment, and am heartily sorry for it: but, Arundel, reflect what the gentle Adeline has suffered, and your own misfortune will appear light. Her greatness of soul and magnanimity amazes me, and I could exhaust language in her praise. How do I appear to this exalted woman, on a comparison? impatient under the common crosses of
 life,

life, and uneasy at the smallest disappointment, whilst she has born up against the severest trial human nature can sustain ! Thank her for me in the most grateful terms, for the honour she did me in suffering me to peruse this affecting narrative. As soon as I had read it, I went with it to Beach-Grove, in order to give it to Charlotte. I had seen her before, and she behaved much as usual : she laughed at my serious face, as she called it, and insisted I had not yet got over the fright I had experienced about my foreign excursion. I endeavoured to make her attend to me with a degree of seriousness, but I found it impossible : she would not hear a word I had to say, if I looked the least grave. “ Well but, my dear Charlotte, said I, surely your letter was too lively, when you was not clear but I should go from you, perhaps, for ever.” “ Ah, replied she, if you are going to find fault with my performances, I shall not stay to hear you ; I had enough of that at the Abbey.” “ I would not presume to find fault with you in any respect, my amiable Charlotte, returned I, had not your letter given me infinite pain ; nay, your sister condemned it.” “ What, you shewed it her, did you ?” “ I did, Miss Duncannon ; surely you are not offended at that ?” demanded I. “ Yes but surely I am, replied she ; the next time I write to you, Colonel, you shall stick my letter upon the

the door of your tent for the benefit of the whole regiment. Such assurance, indeed, as if I had done myself a great favour in writing to you!" I tried to apologize for what I had said, but she would not hear me, nor speak to me while I stayed.

I confess to you, Harry, her conduct made me very uneasy, and I was happy when I had a reasonable excuse to go to the Grove; for she had told me, 'till I could learn to behave better, and treat her with more respect, she did not wish to see me. Miss Belville's History gave me a good opportunity; accordingly I went; Mrs. Aimworth was alone in the parlour when I entered. I asked where Charlotte was? She told me up stairs, but she feared she would not come down if she knew I was there. I begged her to send as from herself; she did so, and Charlotte came; but as soon as she saw me, "Ah! your servant, Colonel," said she, and ran back to her dressing-room before I could overtake her. I begged she would open the door, as I had something to tell her very particular. "No, no, Medway, answered she, you have found some new fault in my letter, I suppose, and therefore you may keep it to yourself; I will mortify you sufficiently; you shall not see me this month. I intend to visit your uncle very soon, but I shall write to him to have you confined,

fined, or I will not come." I informed her I had a packet from Miss Belville, which I was to read to her. She would not believe me a great while; at last she opened the door, and knowing the hand, condescended to go down stairs with me. She desired me to read it, but I hesitated, as Mrs. Aimworth was present. She engaged to acquit me to Adeline. I went through it, and robbed the ladies of their tears in great abundance; to say the truth, Arundel, I joined mine in several parts of it. Towards the conclusion, they were hardly able to endure their feelings. When I had finished, Charlotte exclaimed, "Thank God! I would not read that paper myself, nor hear it read again, for worlds." Then wiping her eyes, she continued, "Ah, my dear Adeline, what hast thou suffered! well might you say to me, I knew not what you had sustained. Indeed I did not! thy tryals exceed my most terrible idea." Then turning to her sister, "Did you ever in your life, Caroline, hear so heart-breaking a story?" Never, answered the gentle Mrs. Aimworth; the behaviour of Miss Belville is entirely consistent with the precepts of philosophy and christian resignation."

This circumstance cast a damp over us the greatest part of the evening; but latterly Charlotte recovered her spirits. "I am determined to live single, Medway, said she, 'till I meet

meet with just such a man as Mr. Grenville; I hate your common groveling souls after that noble fellow. I swear if I was to meet a man of the name of Cooper in the army, I would blow his brains out myself, hap at a venture, without knowing whether he was the murderer of Augustus or not, and so revenge my gentle Adeline."

Before we parted, I got her to promise she would pay a visit to the Castle, without insisting I should be locked up; and, as a mark of prodigious favour, I am to have my liberty that afternoon. How low and insignificant does this chit-chat appear, after the History that bears it company! I declare I am ashamed of myself for what I have written, but I have not time to write a fresh letter; therefore it shall go. Adieu, Arundel; present my most respectful compliments to Miss. Belville and Mrs. Duncannon. Remember me to Sir Edward. Your's, GEORGE MEDWAY.

Sir JAMES THOMPSON to Captain FREEMER.

Ashley-Park.

HA! ha! ha! I set down to write to you, Freemer, but for my life I cannot compose my thoughts to tell you the adventures of the day; but take it as it comes, I care not for stile or method. A party was agreed on a few days ago

ago at Sir Robert Arthur's, to dine at a pleasant farm-house about ten miles from the park. My aunts, my Harriet, Mrs. Abinton and my worship, were to call at Trout-hall for the rest of the company, as it was in our way; but a great difficulty arose in the morning unforeseen and sudden; this was no other than one of the six horses, the pride of Miss Betty Thompson's heart, having by some accident become lame. Now the ancient coach had undergone a thorough cleaning, in order to convey the ladies in due dignity to their intended destination, and had taken up the time and labour of two men a whole week, that they might appear properly, to use Miss Betty's words, who was delighted that she should for once have things her own way, and cram the whole family into her favourite apartment. As we sat at breakfast, all in the highest good humour, lo, who should enter the room but old Joseph, who resembled exactly Weston in the character of Tetter in the Suspicious Husband, when he appears before his enraged master, after having knocked softly at the door. With a countenance as ghastly and wan, Joseph shoved his head half into the parlour. "What do you want?" (demanded Miss Sukey) you may come in." "Nay, sister, you might as well speak to him at the door, I think, (answered Miss Betty) but as he is here, for once he may come into

into the parlour." "If you are so fond of standing in the passage, Miss Betty Thompson, (replied the other) you may speak to him yourself." "Pho! (said the elder lady) why do you contend about such trifles? what have you to say, Joseph?" "Trifles, sister! (retorted Miss Betty) I do not know what you call trifles; if you chuse to be treated with disrespect by your servants, I do not; therefore, Joseph, go and deliver your message on the outside of the door." "He shall not, answered my aunt Sukey; stay here, I tell you, continued she to the poor fellow, (who was retiring with all the expedition he could make) why don't you speak, and say what you want?" "Miss Betty, madam, don't like I should" "Tell me none of Miss Betty, but speak directly." The other lady was preparing a violent retaliation of small-arms for the enemy, but being stopped with a fit of coughing, she was obliged to remain silent; during which the servant made known his business, which was no other than what I have told you.

When he had finished this information, the fellow hurried from the room as if a cannon-ball was ready to let fly at him: knowing his ladies as he did, he certainly proceeded wisely. "There, Miss Betty, (cried my aunt Sukey) you must be content to go with four horses to your equipage; I am glad of it, as it will mortify

mortify your pride a little." "Indeed, madam, (answered she, speaking with difficulty) I will not, for all your vile contrivance, go only with two pair of horses; I know it was you that contrived this disappointment, merely to make me uneasy; but if I cannot have six I will go with five." "Truly, Miss Betty, (replied the lady she addressed) you are mistaken in this case: it was not me who lamed the horse, because that would have been hurting myself, as the beast belongs to all." "No, (replied the other) but had it been only mine, I suppose you would have drove a nail into its heart, instead of its foot, and killed it, as you did my mackaw: such mean, pitiful revenge!"

After much altercation, in which both parties gave vent to their passion, they mutually concluded a peace; or at least a truce of hostilities on both sides, for a time, and set themselves to consider how they should proceed for the general good. I several times attempted to offer my advice, which was always either disregarded or absolutely rejected. At last the ladies concluded among themselves, they would go only four in the coach, and by that means enable two pair of horses to draw them; and that my Harriet and myself should ride on horseback to Trout-hall, where we might make a new regulation, if we found it necessary. Accordingly, after much grumbling from Miss Betty,

Betty, on the disappointment she had undergone, we sat out in the order I have just informed you. But as the carriage was obliged to proceed slowly, on account of its immense weight, I proposed to my Harriet that we should ride first, and advertize the family of Trout-hall who were behind. I therefore went up to the coach, and informed the ladies contained therein, that in pure compassion to Miss Abington's complexion, we would proceed a little faster.

I found Miss Betty was going to make some good natured observation, and therefore, pulling off my hat, I told them we should certainly meet before the close of the evening, and galloped after my Harriet, who looked like a Diana: she rides remarkably well, and never appears to more advantage than on horseback.

We soon arrived at the end of our journey, for one half of the day, as I concluded we should not set off again for some hours. We found the whole family prepared for their expedition; but here a fresh difficulty arose. Sir Robert had been seized with a touch of the gout in the night, and therefore could not think of riding on horseback. Miss Alice, who was prepared for the carriage, did not chuse to redress to mount her Rosinante; besides, she observed the sun was so extremely hot that she should blister her skin; and she was surprized

Miss

Miss Abinton could think of exposing herself to such a warm day. "Truly, madam, (said she, turning to Mrs. Sydley) I would willingly resign my place to you, but my objection to riding is so great that I cannot surmount it." As the coach was sufficiently loaded, she could not go there, and neither of her daughters could ride. She would have gone with her spouse, who declared, on her proposing it, that he had more regard for his horses than to break their backs.

We were all silent for some time: at length, Mr. Sydley pulling up his boots, which sat like wax, addressed his lady---"Upon my word, Mrs. Sydley, if I might presume to advise you, it would be to stay at home; for you see you totally incommode the whole company." "Indeed, Mr. Sydley, (said she) you are very kind; you would never have me go any where. I don't see why these girls should not turn out, and let me have their place by you." "If you please, madam, (answered Emilia) I will endeavour to ride, tho' I am apprehensive I shall only retard the company, as I am a great coward; therefore I had better stay at home and you may go with Mr. Sydley." "Pardon me there, Emilia, (cried he) I will not stir a step without you; and as to going in the phaeton with your mother, upon my soul I cannot think of it: you know I never do. If Mrs.
Sydley

Sydley has an inclination to be so impolite as to spoil the entertainment of the day, by insisting to go, let her mount the phaeton by herself, and take the reward of her obstinacy; for my bays will certainly throw her into the first hedge they come to." "La, mama, said Miss Stanhope, how can you make such a fuss? you know your scarlet habit is here, and you can ride very well. Why won't you take Miss Arthur's horse, and then all this dispute is settled?" "Bless me, Nancy, replied the lady, I had quite forgot that: I will go directly and put on my riding habit." She left the room, desiring the horse might be got ready. "Oh, the devil take your scarlet habit, said Mr. Sydley to himself, I see the fates have determined to plague me with thy company; tis in vain to oppose them, and I must submit." He walked to the window, smacking his whip, and singing

Ye gods, ye gave to me a wife, &c.

Before Mrs. Sydley was returned from the labours of the toilet, the other ladies arrived. After the usual compliments were over, Mr. Sydley observed it grew very late; and unless we set out, we should not get to our retirement till much after the common time of dinner. If
you

you are of my way of thinking, Sir James, continued he, we will take these fair ones, and leave the rest to follow." "Surely, Mr. Sydley, exclaimed Miss Arthur, you will wait for your lady; I could not stir without her on any account." "Ah, there, my dear Miss Arthur, (replied he, laughing, and taking her hands) we differ, for I would willingly never stir with her." "For shame, you strange creature! (returned the lady, tapping him with her fan) but you handsome men think you have a right to do and say any thing." "But do you acknowledge we have that right?" (answered he, kissing her hand, and looking in her face with an expression of drollery). The lady attempted to blush, hung down her head, and in a half-angry tone replied, "Really, Mr. Sydley, these liberties are far from disagreeable, I mean." I could not forbear laughing at this affectation of modesty, in which Mr. Sydley heartily joined me. In the midst of this merriment, in sailed Mrs. Sydley. Our attention was called from Miss Arthur, who sat flirting her fan, to observe the figure before us: her spouse started back, exclaiming;

Angels and ministers of grace defend us!

Be thou a spirit of health, or goblin damn'd!

“For heaven’s sake, Mrs. Sydley, do you intend to set us all in a blaze by that profusion of red and gold?” “Really, Sir, (answered the lady, her natural ruddy colour heightened by vexation) this is a very singular method of addressing one: my habit has been approved of by people of tip-top fashion and taste, as elegant and quite the thing; but if it had been ten times handsomer, you would have found fault with it.” “Quite the thing! (repeated her husband, standing in the same attitude) yes it is indeed; for upon my soul, I never saw such a thing in my life: why child, your horse will imagine he is on fire.” To say the truth, nothing in nature could be more ridiculous than this dress for a woman of her years; it was deep scarlet, or rather crimson, laced all round the flaps and down before with broad gold lace; besides which, from all parts were large gold frogs that made a mighty glitter; her hat was white, ornamented with a feather of the same flaming colour as her habit; and I confess, every body must agree with Mr. Sydley, that she was the most extraordinary figure that could be seen. After much more wit from him, and compliments from the ladies, we were all settled in our several modes of conveyance; though it was with no small difficulty we seated Mrs. Sydley. As the horse had been used to no greater weight than Miss Arthur’s,

Arthur's, he was by no means pleased with his additional burden ; he kicked and tore for some time, but at length we got him into better humour, and away we went. We arrived without any accident at Rose-Farm, where we spent a most delightful afternoon ; for what with our several delays and ceremonies, it was full three o'clock before we got there. After our rural repast, which, although extremely good, was entirely in the country stile, we set out to view the environs of the farm : this sweet spot is situated the most delightfully you can imagine ; it stands on an eminence, and is ornamented on one hand, by a large range of woods, and on the other, by a beautiful, open country, waving with yellow corn, as most of the land about it is arable ; the valley beneath, which is fertile and agreeable, relieves the eye by a more bounded prospect. Here various little cottages appear at distances from each other, that pleasingly diversify the scene. The spire of a neighbouring church that stands on the margin of a wood, and seems to rise from among the trees, makes the whole compleat, and is the most beautiful landscape I ever beheld. Miss Abinton was delighted with it. I promised to take her some day when we might have a longer time to contemplate this rural spot. About seven o'clock we left the farm, in order to return home. We had proceeded

about a mile when we came to a brook, which the horse Mrs. Sydley rode imagined would be a good place to relieve himself of his burden; he therefore proceeded towards it with the utmost expedition; and before we could overtake him, gently laid Mrs. Sydley therein, and made his escape. The lady screamed aloud she should be drowned, though the water was not deep enough to do her the least injury. Mr. Arthur and I instantly dismounted to assist her; Mr. Sydley, after some time, when he saw her out of the water, did the same, and offered her his hand. "I hope, Mrs. Sydley, said he, this ducking will for the future prevent your exposing yourself by pretending to ride, and making so preposterous a figure. Thank heavens this Amazonian attire is effectually spoiled; and my eyes will not be again shocked at the appearance of it." "As to that, replied the lady, you need not rejoice so much at my misfortune, because it has dirtied my habit, for I can have it cleaned, and it will look as well as new. But where is my hat?" (continued she, looking around her with concern) "Yonder, madam, cried Mr. Sydley, taking a gentle swim down the brook. It will be in vain to attempt getting it, for before any one can overtake it, the river-god will have received it for one of his nymphs, whose forehead it will adorn, I hope, better than it did your's,

your's, or she will have no acquisition." In vain the servants flew to rescue the favourite of Mrs. Sydley, who offered any thing to whoever should be fortunate enough to restore it to her. True, as Mr. Sydley had prophesied, the current of the brook had carried it to the midst of a rapid river wherein it emptied its own little stream, and the river was conveying its prize with expedition from human sight. Vain was the lamentation of the mistress; the hat was not to be recovered, and she was obliged to remount her horse without it. My Harriet took her own hat from her snowy forehead and offered it to her; but she could not get it on, otherwise she would have taken it, to put an end to the jokes of Mr. Sydley on the loss of her Amazonian crest; however, as that could not be, she was obliged to go without. This circumstance, together with her dripping habit, discoloured with mud, and surcharged with water, made her the most truly laughable sight that ever struck my eyes. As to Mr. Sydley, I thought he would never have recovered himself; he continued to laugh from the time she remounted her horse till we came to Trout-hall, notwithstanding the ill humour and anger of his consort, who retired as soon as we reached Sir Robert's, to change her clothes, as well as to avoid the observation of her spouse. We took leave of all the Trout-hall party, as

my aunts would not alight, and proceeded to the park, where we left them. I attended my beloved and her mother to the Wood. Notwithstanding my aversion to the Thompson coach, I seated myself therein for the sake of Miss Abinton, nor once thought it went too slow; but the case was altered when I returned; I grew out of patience with the vehicle, and kept swearing at old Joseph to go faster, which he assured me was impossible, as his horses were so tired they could hardly stand. In about an hour we got home, and finding my aunts retired for the night, I sat down to scribble to you. Why don't you write, Free-mer? What the devil, have you lost the use of your hands? or cannot you furnish out matter to fill a sheet of paper? Write then such nonsense as I do. You see I don't forget you, but fulfil my promise, and inform you of all our movements, even the most insignificant. Surely, Charles, you have heard from Louisa; prithee write, and tell me how you go on, or expect to hear no more from

Your's,

THOMPSON.

P. S. Oh, by the way, let me know when you go to town, and I will meet you. I shall leave this part of the world in about three weeks.

Miss

Miss DUNCANNON to Miss BELVILLE.

Beach-Grove.

I SET down to write, my Adeline, though I know not what to say. I have heard your affecting history; have paid a just tribute to your misfortunes, and the memory of Mr. Grenville. Oh, my exalted friend! how did you obtain that amazing serenity and composure, which renders you the delight and admiration of all who know you? A trial less severe than your's, were enough to make the mind weary of life; how then could you, at an age so tender, support yourself under such complicated distress; yet still retain so deep a sense of your loss? To conquer ourselves, my Adeline, how hard the task! to have a beloved object torn from us, just at the moment we fondly hoped to be united to it for a length of years, I ever thought was more than human fortitude could support. Yet you, my amiable girl, have sustained this severest of losses! have lifted your eyes from Grenville's grave, and by so doing made numbers happy. I no longer wonder at your rejection of my cousin, and Sir Edward. How could you look on them, who had been loved by such a man as him you mourn for? Depend on it, you shall not hear from me a word in their favour. They have many vir-

tues, but before the character of your Augustus they appear nothing, or at best, as the gentle stream of a rivulet to the rapid current of a river. Compared to him, mankind must sink; such a uniformity of sentiment and conduct is not to be matched, except by yourself: you were animated by one soul; the same motives actuated both, and you were only fit for each other. I, that was a little while ago so strong an advocate for your marrying, now am silent. Harry must be unhappy, I cannot plead for him: it would be insulting the memory of Mr. Grenville, to wish your love bestowed on any man breathing: I see 'tis impossible; nor shall you ever be pained by another intreaty from me. How does the conduct of your Charlotte appear, on a certain apprehended evil, in comparison to your's, on a much more trying occasion? Oh, my Adeline! surely you must have despised me: but I am a mere nothing to you, indeed. Where is the woman that could have acted as you did? no where; you are the most perfect pattern of patient resignation that ever lived: tho' you still labour under the heavy pressure of grief, yet you soar so far above the weakness of nature as to bind your sorrow by reason, and religion; and you still shine forth the entertaining companion, the instructive friend, and the solace of the unhappy. What a character is here! yet how literally

ally true! Forgive me, Adeline, for thus freely expressing my opinion of you to yourself: the qualifications you are mistress of, demand this tribute of just acknowledgment; nor can I suppress it, tho' it may pain your delicacy.

I have had a better opinion of Medway since he read the affecting account to me: he was deeply touched with your calamities, and joined the general commendations. If he had not, I should have concluded him stone, and have had nothing more to do with him; you must know this circumstance brought about a reconciliation between us, for he had behaved very ill, and I had quarrelled with him, and would not hear what he had to say a great while, till he told me he had something from you, which he was to read to me. He was obliged to make a number of asseverations before I would believe him; but at last, thinking he would hardly tell so many lies, I opened the door, (for I had bolted myself in) and knowing your hand, suffered him to lead me down stairs, tho' without saying a word to him. Before he had got half through, I totally forgot my resentment, and found myself chatting away to him as fast as ever; and observing my condescension made the poor man happy, I thought it would be foolish to be Mrs. Stiff any longer, and so I took no more notice of his rudeness, only by hints now and then. When he was

gone, my grave sister took it into her head to preach for him. "Upon my word, Charlotte, (putting on an air of importance) I do not think you behave well to the Colonel: he loves you to the greatest degree, and you tyrannize over him intolerably. Ah, child! take care you are not retorted upon, when you are in his power." "What, you really think Medway ungenerous, do you, Mrs. Aimworth? why then, that will be a good reason for breaking with him. I am sure my mama would not wish me to marry a man who would beat me afterwards, and as you think that will be the case, if I am tyed to the Colonel, I shall immediately break off with him, and so preserve my bones." "Pish, Charlotte! is there no way for a man to retort upon a woman who has treated him ill before marriage, but by beating her?" "No, upon my word, Caroline, none that I should pay any regard to; I should have no *penchant* for having a black eye, instead of these fine blue ones, given me by the butt-end of a pistol, or a blow on my arm with the Colonel's gun-stick; but as to any thing else, I am his match." "My dear girl, answered Mrs. Aimworth, (looking with vast self-satisfaction) you have never been married; but for all your rattle, no woman would be sooner hurt by a slight from her husband than you; therefore, Charlotte, let me advise you to treat the Colonel

lonel with more respect and consideration, if you have an inclination to preserve his tenderness; for, reflect, my dear, whenever you are united to him, you must lay aside those little teizing ways that are borne by the lover, but never will by the husband; and I suppose you mean one day to give him your hand?" "Why, once, sister, I thought of it, but now I am entirely off. No, no; now you have told me there are more ways than one to plague a woman, and that if he don't beat he may perhaps pinch me black and blue, or God knows, starve me, or some such prank, you may depend on it I shall not enter the holy estate of matrimony with a man given to such ill habits." "Upon my honour, Charlotte, you are very provoking: can't you reflect one moment? I find all I say to you is disregarded. But here comes Mr. Aimworth; perhaps you will observe what he says."

True enough, her honest man appeared at the window, which, from his want of his eyes mistaking for the door, he run plump against it, and almost threw himself backwards. "Well-a-day! said he, I vow I thought it was the door." I burst out a-laughing. "For shame, Charlotte! (cried the alarmed wife) how can you laugh at what might have been so dreadful an accident? I hope, my dear, you are not hurt," turning to her astonished spouse.

spouse. "Not at all, my Caroline; but surely I thought I was coming right: was not that the door?" "Try again, sir, (answered your Charlotte) and see if you cannot knock your eyes out entirely." My matronly sister reproved me; but in spite of her sage remarks, I could not help laughing at the oddity of the accident. The good man came stumbling into the room, and Mrs. Aimworth informed him what had been our topic, and how little I observed what she said, though it was a subject that, perhaps, the happiness of my future life greatly depended on, and therefore she wished Mr. Aimworth would represent it to me in a proper light, as I might pay more attention to him.

I found by the preparations he was making, he intended to enter on a long lecture on prudence, and to quote his Caroline as an example by way of consolation; and not being in a humour to attend to his grave advice, I arose and went to him: "My dear Aimworth, said I, some other time I will patiently hear what you have to say, but now I have letters to write, and therefore will leave you and my prudent sister to contrive a plan for my behaviour to Medway. Without staying to hear a word he had to say, I ran out of the room, and seated myself at my bureau, from whence I write this letter to my Adeline.

I set

I set out with an intention to insert nothing that was the least flighty, but by the time I proceeded a page and a half, I found my whole stock of gravity exhausted, and I could not help giving you that scrap of a conversation between Caroline and me; who, by the way, regards you as something above mortality, tho' unknown to you personally; she hopes, ere the expiration of the approaching winter, to have the happiness of being introduced to you, and as a previous circumstance sends her compliments in this, as does her purblind husband. I wish that good soul does not come to some accident in the streets of London, and so I tell Caroline, but she don't mind me: perhaps she may wish for a fair chance to dispatch him; there is no knowing peoples' sentiments; it is by no means unnatural, that a woman who has been married five years should wish to get genteelly rid of her partner; for variety is pleasing, and too much of one thing is good for nothing: nay, a hundred proverbs I could name that would keep her in countenance. If you are not tired of my nonsense, Adeline, and wish me to think so, write immediately, and tell me I am not despised by you, and I shall be happy. Be so good as to present my duty to my mother, and love to Ned and Harry: tell the former I will write very soon, and send her the account of my first visit to the Castle, where

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where I am going, and desire her to shew you that letter. As I have not seen Sir William a great while, I intend to surprize him by the splendour of my dress, and even the old Baronet shall be forced to declare, the partiality of George was not to be wondered at, as such beauty was not to be resisted. I am in terrors for fear I should fall into the moat; however, all the servants of Mr. Aimworth are to be at hand for fear of such a misfortune, to drag me out; and the Colonel, who knows the entrance into the den, will be there to conduct us. — Adieu, my dear Adeline; excuse my flighty nonsense, and believe that I am truly your's,

CHARLOTTE DUNCANNON.

My compliments attend Sir Harry and Mrs. Evelin; I swear I have a *tendre* for him, but you are before me there too.

The Right Hon. Earl of ARUNDEL to Colonel MEDWAY.

Belmont-Abbey.

I Coincide in your opinion, Medway, with regard to Miss Belville, and so does Sir Edward; no woman but herself would have acted by two men as she did by us. Her charming softness captivates the understanding as much as her beauty fascinates the senses. I adore her
with

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with greater ardour than ever, since I have been informed of her misfortunes, though I know my love is hopeless. I fear Wilmot's feelings in her favour are encreased; he says nothing to me; but whenever she is mention'd, he runs out in encomiums more rapturous than ever; and can it be wondered at? she will ever be the object of his adoration as well as mine. 'Tis not my passion only that keeps me her's; my reasons binds the chain, and makes a hope of freedom vain and ridiculous. Ah, George, what a destiny is mine! but dare I murmur, when the angel for whom I sigh suffers, and has suffered so much! Her gentle nature has bore up against the most malignant strokes of fortune, and shall I then complain, when not a discontented word escapes her lips? She is all heavenly resignation and composure. Sir Edward and I went yesterday afternoon to the Grove, and asked for Miss Belville: the servant told us she was in the dining-room with Sir Harry Evelin. Thither we went, and opening the door hastily, saw him with Adeline's hand in his, which he had just pressed to his lips. This circumstance gave a damp to my heart: I cannot bear to see any man receive the smallest favour from her. I cast my eyes on Sir Edward, and perceived his countenance expressed the same emotions which agitated me. As soon as she saw us,

us, she withdrew her hand and arose to meet us. I looked on her as on a being of a superior nature: her whole noble character was present in my mind from the late reading her affecting struggles, and I could have worshipped her. She begged we would be seated. We placed ourselves on either side of her. She looked more beautiful than I had ever seen her. My heart was full, and wanted a vent. Her sweet eyes were cast on both with the mildest expression of pity and sensibility. I would have given worlds to have told her the feelings I that moment experienced; but the presence of Sir Harry prevented me. We continued silent some time; at length Miss Belville spoke. "I have heard from Miss Duncannon, my Lord; she is well, and in high spirits, but does not talk of leaving Beach-grove." "I am glad my lively cousin is well, madam, answered I; she has not wrote to her mother; I shall rejoice her by telling her she is in health." "She begged me to inform Mrs. Duncannon she means to write to her very soon, which I should be obliged to your Lordship to make known to her." "I will, madam, with the greatest pleasure."

A servant entered and informed Sir Harry Mrs. Evelin begged leave to speak to him: he left the room. When he was gone I took her hand; "Irresistible lady, said I, how shall I
 4 thank

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thank you for the valuable confidence you have placed in me! in what words, Miss Belville, shall I express my feelings? Gratitude, love, veneration and esteem, are terms too weak to convey to you an idea of the sensations you have excited. Oh, madam, the struggles of your gentle heart have unmanned me. I find I can support my own woes, but your's are too much for me." I stopped; she was silent; anguish seemed to struggle in her eye, and endeavoured to force its way by tears; but she forbade it, and sighing, cast her eyes first on Sir Edward, (who sat silent, immersed in profound contemplation) and then on me; the pearly drop that she had forbidden to flow, escaped unperceived its crystal prison, and was stealing down her cheek; it fell upon her hand; she wiped it off, and smiled—"You see, my Lord, I am very weak; painful remembrance sometimes will intrude, though I endeavour to banish it. I am happy if my sad story has afforded you any satisfaction; it has assured you my heart can never be your's, otherwise than by friendship; it is dead to every other sensation; the pains and joys of love flew with the life of my Augustus. I esteem your Lordship, but I cannot love: I hope you will be content with my friendship as well as Sir Edward; it is all I have to give you."

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She laid her hand on his; he started, and pressing it to his lips, addressed her thus: "I have been considering, my adored girl, in what language to convey to you my admiration of your conduct, from infancy to the present hour; but I find it is not to be done. Could you see my heart, madam, you would then behold every corner of it filled with your exquisite perfections and my unhappy passion; but as that cannot be, I despair of telling you how I adore and revere you." He could not proceed, but arose and walked up and down the room in visible emotion. I was lost in admiration while I contemplated her lovely countenance; dangerous employment! Each moment I felt my love encrease, and with it my despair. She was silent. After some time, Sir Edward again approached her: "Miss Belville, said he, your constancy to the memory of Mr. Grenville, is an honour to your heart as well as your understanding; for where would you find a man worthy your love now he is gone? Yes, charming Adeline, dear as you are to me, I am obliged in justice to acknowledge this, though it dashes my hopes for ever, and makes my future days a chaos of misery." Again he walked from her in the greatest agitation, but soon returned and seated himself by her. "The only way I have of thanking you for the communications you
have

have favoured me with, is to be for ever silent on the subject of my passion; yes, angelic Adeline! this shall be the last time I will tell you I love." He took her hand, and pressing it to his lips with impassioned fondness, continued, "Heaven is my witness, Miss Belville, what I have suffered, before I could bring my heart to bear the thought of resigning its hopes, even when I knew the situation of your's; I have at last succeeded, and never will again wound your ear with solicitations of love. I yield to your superior virtues, and by an humble imitation of your noble magnanimity, will endeavour to deserve your friendship; to suffer the severest pangs the heart of man can be inflicted with, I would think nothing, could I restore your happiness, could I recal the inanimate Grenville from the grave; on the conditions of sleeping there myself this moment, I would not hesitate: I love you, madam, to that exquisite degree, that at the hardest rate I would obtain your peace."

Here he was overcome by his emotions; his voice faltered, and he was obliged to stop. I never saw Sir Edward look to the advantage he did at this moment; his whole countenance had a serious and earnest appearance, that bore strong testimony to the truth of what he said; an animated glow adorned his face, and gave an additional expression to his eyes, which added

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to the tenderness depicted on his countenance, made him the most engaging figure imaginable; his noble resignation, so explicit and generous, amazed and pleased me. Ah, George, how did I glory in my friend! The fair Miss Belville was evidently delighted, and waited to answer him, with looks of the utmost sweetness.

This scene was too interestingly affecting to be interrupted by me; I therefore sat silently gazing at them. "I have told you, madam, said Sir Edward, I would die to promote your felicity, and I told you truth. Alas! I cannot purchase happiness for you here, and you will eminently meet it hereafter. I have likewise given up my hopes, and promised no more to mention my love. Permit me to say one word for the last time on that dearest of sensations: I have adored you, Adeline, with a fervency of affection that cannot be equalled; my whole soul was centered in you; that love led me to violate my friendship; and had it not been for your prudence, might have led me further. I thank you, Miss Belville, you preserved me from myself in moments that I was almost mad. I will make every return in my power, and again repeat, this is the last time a word of my passion shall escape my lips: though I shall love you to my dying moment as fondly as now, yet shall you never more be pained with
hearing

hearing it." "Generous Sir Edward! answered the lovely girl, I cannot sufficiently thank you for a conduct so noble and exalted: yes, my dear friend, for dear you will ever be to me, we will together enjoy the pure and uninterrupted delights of friendship. You will, in that character, eminently contribute to my felicity. All the happiness I can now enjoy is from friendship, and the delightful prospect of joining my Augustus in a better world." She paused, and wiped her eyes; then assuming a cheerful countenance, proceeded: "No, Sir Edward, were I capable of wishing Mr. Grenville back on earth, I should not justly love him. Amid my severest conflicts for his loss, I never suffered myself to sigh for his return. It pleased his Creator to call him, and I should have expressed my affection ill by loud complainings and fruitless wishes to recal him again on this stage of mortality. He must have paid the common debt. True, he paid it young, and dreadfully; but in his parting pang, his sorrows fled, and all beyond was happiness and peace! I could not conquer nature that lamented the lover, friend, and dear companion of my infant hours; but though I grieved sincerely, I hope I never lost sight of the hand who had for wise purposes afflicted me. I thank you, Sir Edward, for wishing to obtain my happiness at the expence of your life,

life, if that could call Augustus from the grave; but if it could, I would not consent that you should give it up. I am resigned to the dispensations of providence, and would not counteract them, if I could. Your promise that you will no more solicit me on a subject my heart revolts against, gives me the greatest pleasure; and, could I have the same assurance from Lord Arundel, my joy would be complete." She turned to me. "What do you say, my Lord? may I not hope to hear you speak as Sir Edward has done?" "You may, my angelic girl, answered I; I promise you I never will again disturb your tranquillity by the mention of my unfortunate passion: my friend has spoke my sentiments; what more can I say, but that for you I would resign my life?" I bowed on her hand. "I thank you, my Lord, I am happy. Generous men! said she, would I could have made you both perfectly so! but that, my fate denied. I cannot express to you, gentlemen, how much my heart is filled with sentiments of regard and gratitude for your behaviour; and while I live I shall retain the deepest sense of it. You will ever be joyfully received by me as friends, the dearest of friends. Next to the virtues of my Augustus, I hold yours." She gave a hand to each, which we both kissed with the utmost respect, and endeavoured to compose ourselves. When

we became more tranquil, we begged her to inform us what had become of the Earl and Lord William, and likewise the Duke, which she did in the following words; "About three months after I had concluded my melancholy history, we received the painful intelligence of the Earl's death. I wept for this dear man as I did for my father. I tenderly loved him, and was a great while before I recovered from the additional dejection this event occasioned. My Louisa and her amiable parents shared my grief, and sincerely lamented the decease of the regretted Earl. The poignancy of my affliction was greatly increased by the continual accounts I received of Lord William, who went on in every folly and extravagance he could engage in, and had entirely forgot his amiable brother, and his dying injunctions. The Duke and Duchess still continued in France, where they now are." Here she was interrupted by the entrance of Sir Harry and Mrs. Evelin; and we had no longer any opportunity of speaking particularly to her. Indeed, what had we to say? our hopes were all at an end. Ah, Medway, what a word to write, I have promised no more to tell her I love her! Can I adhere to it? You must and will pity my situation; 'tis indeed a most trying one. After a great deal of general conversation, we took our leave, and in solitary

tary silence returned to the abbey. Sir Edward, as well as myself, were too much engrossed by our own disagreeable reflections to talk much: we mutually agreed that we would give the manuscript to Mrs. Duncannon, as neither could undertake the task of reading it, which we accordingly did, and immediately retired to our separate apartments. My thoughts were in too much confusion to suffer me to write last night; but as I rose early this morning, I sat down to give you the foregoing account. Alas, George! I know not what will become of me; I fear my brain will turn, and reason will at last desert her seat: as to Sir Edward, he is more melancholy than I am, if that is possible: yonder he is walking; I must go and join him, and by mutual consolations, alleviate the sufferings of each other. Adieu; I am happy your lot is not so wayward as that of your sincerely devoted

ARUNDEL.

P. S. Remember me to Sir William, and the family at Beach-Grove.

Miss BELVILLE to Miss DUNCANNON.

Myrtle-Grove.

YOU have read the account of my former life, Charlotte, and no longer wonder at my rejection of your cousin and Sir Edward; how much

much more content that assurance makes me, tho' an alien from happiness! The chief comfort of my remaining life will be to meet the approbation of my friends. You acknowledge the account of my tryals has greatly affected you; think then, my dear girl, how I must have suffered in a separation from a man who, tho' there drawn so deserving and amiable, was ten thousand times more so in reality: the various actions of his life were too numerous to relate in a detail of that sort: the mere heads of my misfortunes were only described, and if you and the rest of my amiable friends were so much affected by them, how do you imagine they must have dwelt on my heart! Thus much, my Charlotte, in excuse for my behaviour to Lord Arundel and Sir Edward, whom I truly esteem. You ask me how I attained the composure and resignation I am at present possessed of? I will tell you.—For a long time I yielded to my feelings, and suffered my heart to be too much engrossed with my earthly disappointment. In the first violence of my grief, I thought it was a direct impossibility that I should ever enjoy a moment's ease again; but after my restoration from the brink of the grave, and the interment of Mr. Grenville, I reflected on the folly, not to say crime, of my excessively indulging grief. I argued coolly and reasonably with myself, and found that my misfor-

tune, great as it was, ought to be borne with patient resignation to the will of Heaven, who, for ends to me undiscoverable, had suffered this event to take place. I knew if I acted well, I had the assurance of my Creator himself for everlasting happiness, where I should meet my Augustus, never more to experience the agony of separation. These reflexions, by degrees, brought me to a more tranquil state of mind, and I was determined to submit as well as my nature would allow. Many and various were the struggles I underwent, before I could in the least accomplish this desired frame of mind; nay, to this day, I am not properly resigned. It is my constant endeavour to yield my heart to the will of him who formed it; and I hope the sincerity of my desire will be accepted, and the weakness of my nature looked over. I acknowledge I still remember the virtues and extraordinary qualifications of Mr. Grenville, and ever shall, with the utmost delight: they are my comfort and recreation to think on; he was so good, so just, and so amiable, that if ever mortal deserved to be happy, he did; nor have I the least doubt but he is so; and perhaps, at this very moment, is now looking on his Adeline with an eye of heavenly pity. This pleasing thought I cherish with the utmost carefulness, and find it supports my spirits even in moments of the greatest dejection.

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My trial has been a severe one; it deadened all the enjoyments that youth in general delight in; gaiety and dissipation have no charms for me; the admiration of the world pains me. I never wished to excite admiration, save in one dear object, and he is gone! but I will no longer intrude my melancholy upon my Charlotte. You are in the high season of youth and vivacity, and have never had any material blow to check it: make the most of your moment of happiness, my amiable Miss Duncannon, nor do not, by any wilful neglect, slight what will really conduce to it. I was concerned by your letter to find Colonel Medway and you had disagreed so soon: I fear the fault was chiefly your's. 'Tis pity you will not suffer your natural sensibility to have way, and treat the Colonel as he deserves: he loves you with the fondest affection; why will you then, by indifference, and a studied inattention, render him miserable, when 'tis in your power to make him exquisitely happy, and by so doing, insure your own? Believe me, Charlotte, the time will certainly come when you will blame your levity, and wish to recall your behaviour; let me persuade you now to lay it aside, and make the worthy Medway the possessor of your hand, as he is of your heart. This event would make your good mother pass the rest of her days in peace, could she see her beloved child

married to the Colonel, and as happy as she deserves to be. All your delighted friends would rejoice, and partake of your felicity; consent then, my dear Charlotte, and make us all happy. I have no doubt but you will, and I shall have the pleasure of congratulating you very soon on your change of name. I thank you for saying you will not plead for the Earl; I could never make him the return he deserves, and it pains me to be solicited. I have now the satisfaction of their own assurance, that they will never again endeavour to move me in favour of either, but bury their love in eternal silence: this assurance has given me more pleasure than any thing that has happened since the death of Mr. Grenville. I really love both with the purest sisterly regard; and by this generous resignation of their hopes, for the sake of my peace, they have fixed me for ever theirs. I have known the pains attendant on the resignation of a beloved object, and have truly felt for them: but as one must have been unhappy, had my choice elected the other for the master of my heart, they have now the consolation of their friendship, that then the unsuccessful lover would have been bereft of. I have not had an opportunity of seeing Mrs. Duncannon myself, but gave your message to Lord Arundel, and she is easy on your account. You flatter me greatly, when you tell me Mrs.

Aim-

Aimworth is desirous of seeing me, and holds me in such estimation. I have the utmost veneration for her virtues, tho' they are only known to me by representation; and shall no less rejoice to behold her, than she obligingly says she shall me. I beg you to present my compliments, and tell her so. Your idea, Charlotte, that I should despise you for the amiable sensibility you discovered on a late dreaded event, has given me some moments of uneasiness. How could you suppose your Adeline would have been capable of such a thing? I hope her heart is better: she shared in your disquietudes, and esteemed you more than ever for them. Those tears you shed increased your amiable perfections, as they added to your other graces that of susceptibility. No, Charlotte, never imagine you will be in danger of meeting my disapprobation, unless it is when you treat a certain favourite of mine with a want of tenderness, and commit a violence on your own heart by so doing. I already wish you back at the abbey, and hope your stay at Beach-Grove will not be a great while longer. We are lost without you: I fancy we shall not meet again here, as Mrs. Evelin talks of going to London speedily: she expects Mr. Evelin home very soon, and would be in town to receive him. I regret the idea of leaving the country, which is much better calculated for

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my serious turn of thought than the noise and bustle of the capital; but we cannot have things as we wish.

Adieu, my dear Charlotte, I shall rejoice to hear you have escaped the dangers of the moat, and therefore hope you will not omit so material an information.

Sir Harry and Mrs. Evelin return their best compliments to you; the former declares he thinks you one of the finest girls he ever saw. Farewel. Your's ever,

ADELINE BELVILLE.

Sir Harry EVELIN to Captain MONTAGUE.

Myrtle-Grove.

I Have been debating with myself for near a fortnight, Montague, whether I should ever write to you again, and have at last determined in the affirmative; though, upon my soul, your last letter hardly deserved an answer. What a pack of damned ridiculous qualms of conscience have you got together from that old prig of a parson! I thought you a fellow of better spirits than to be affected by what he could say to you; and as to the sighing and whining of Emilia, I concluded you was absolutely proof against that: with your know-
ledge

ledge of the sex, to be moved with the tears and complainings of a disappointed girl! Why, Montague, had it been a novice, I should not have wondered at it; but you to be seized with contrition! truly I should as soon have thought of seeing St. Paul's travelling towards Fairy-Hill, as you turned penitent; ay, and reprover too! You seriously recommend to me tamely to resign the finest woman in the world, if I can obtain her, because you dread to behold another reduced to the same situation as Miss Ayscough. Now, Tom, if I had not a great regard for you, I should not write again as long as I lived; but for all your nonsense, I cannot help scribbling to you. However, prithee, let me have no more of your good counsel. A dissertation on the beauty of virtue is hardly supportable from the fair Adeline, who is purity herself, but from a man as deeply stained with violations of virtue as I am myself, it is quite ridiculous. As to the pathetic speeches of Emilia on her deviation from the narrow road, I well know she can give you half an hundred in the space of ten minutes: the girl had always a turn for tragedy distress, and she fancies herself the most injured woman in the world; therefore, if you are such a milksop as to whimper and whine at her mournings and complaints, she will employ your

white handkerchief. I hope, Montague, your next will be wrote more in the stile of a man, or never expect to be looked on by me. I acknowledge, to give up your friendship and correspondence would occasion me a great deal of pain; but I will not have any thing to do with a man who would attempt persuading me to resign my favourite pursuit. I could not exist deprived of all hopes that Miss Belville will be mine. I love her with the most violent passion; and if I cannot gain her as I wish, she must and shall be Lady Evelin. Yes, Montague, faith I begin to imagine I might be happy married to Adeline: her beauty is her least accomplishment; the long time I have lived with her, has discovered ten thousand amiable perfections that before I knew not. Her easiness of temper is amazing. She has two servants that have lived with her from infancy, and they say she was from a child the most heavenly disposition in the world: had she a little more life, she would be a divinity; but a constant pensiveness accompanies all she says and does, that though very lovely at times, is rather unnatural in a woman so young. My sister informed me it arose from a tender disappointment, but she did not know the particulars. Not satisfied with this, I enquired of old William what had happened to Miss Belville that occasioned that uncommon melancholy for

for which she was remarked. He informed me she had lost a lover, of whom she was very fond, and to whom she was going to be married just as he was killed in a duel. I wanted to find out the name, and tried several ways to draw it from the old man, but he avoided it a great while; at last, under the seal of secrecy, he told me it was the honourable Mr. Grenville, youngest son to the Earl of Bromfield; that he was the best man that ever lived, and doated on this lady, who loved him in return with the sincerest affection; that for a great while after his death, nobody thought she would live; but that after her recovery from a dangerous fever into which the shock had thrown her, she grew more resigned. This was all I wished to know, and therefore I enquired no further. I remember the duel being talked of, and that he was going to be married to a beautiful young lady with a large fortune; but had no idea this was the fair one, never having heard her name that I remember. My sister never told me the name of the lover for whom Miss Belville mourned, and I had no idea it could be Grenville, who was said to be the most amiable and accomplished youth of the age, and generally lamented.

I am sorry to find her affections so firmly fixed on him who was so very meritorious; it may occasion me more trouble than

I wish to gain them; but it must be done, I cannot live without her. I am easier since I have found out I have no living rival to fear. I once was in great dread of Sir Edward Wilmot, but that is now entirely over; she has remained deaf to every intreaty of love, but I flatter myself she will not always remain so; she honours me with a great share of her confidence, and receives all my efforts to oblige her with the most winning complacency; whenever I beg her to walk, she immediately complies, and listens to my professions of esteem (for I go not a bit farther) with the most encouraging politeness. I think, from the present appearance of things, I have no reason to despair; and whenever I find a proper opportunity, I shall make an open declaration, and if nothing else will do, marry her. I hope this determination will silence your scruples, and I shall have no more of your alterations in opinions, for, upon my soul, Montague, they set devilish awkward on you. If you assure me you will say no more about giving up Miss Belville, I will entirely forget what's past, and regard you as I ever did. I should be sorry, confounded sorry, to be obliged to break off with you, on more accounts than one; therefore, Montague, let me have no more of your penitence, if you wish we should continue friends. I shall wait with impatience

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'till I have your determination whether we shall or not, for on you it depends. I will be entirely reconciled, on condition you say no more on a circumstance, that I would first resign my life before I would give up. As to the illness of Miss Ayscough, I am by no means to blame for it; she has fretted herself into this dreadful way; but nothing has she wanted; every advice, every assistance that could be procured, has been her's, and if she is not satisfied, she shall have the whole college of physicians to attend her. It is not in my power to bring back her father and mother from the grave, where I believe they are both laid safe, and therefore her complaints are unavailing on that head; but if she can think of any thing within my interest or fortune to obtain, she shall certainly have it. As to her children, they ever have, and shall continue to find a father in me, so for them she need have no fears; and if she will endeavour to live, she shall want for no comfort I can purchase her: if this will not satisfy her, I know not what will: I have no more in my power. I have much to relate, but shall not honour you with any communications 'till I know on what terms we are to be for the future.

HENRY EVELIN.

Miss

*Miss ABINTON to Miss BELVILLE.**Elmwood.*

YOUR last letter, my amiable, Adeline, gave many painful sensations to your Harriet. Your melancholy history, I dare say, was affecting beyond idea, described by you and at a time when every painful event was fresh in your memory. I that know the unhappy circumstances, and was an intimate of your beloved Augustus, should not be able to support your description of his death: I do not ask you for it; it would be too much for me: I knew and loved his virtues, and sincerely lamented him. Oh, my friend, what a mind is your's, to be capable of writing a detail like this, in which you was so nearly, so tenderly concerned! My wonder is raised at this fresh instance of your magnanimity, and I admire you more than ever. You tell me Louisa is a stranger to this circumstance, and ever will be so 'till death shall have dropped his fatal dart in your bosom: ah, my Adeline, long may that dreaded dart be turned from you, for the sake of your friends, and the numbers who have no consolation but your amiable benevolence! I hope heaven will spare you long for an example to many, and for the comfort and delight of those you honour with your esteem. As it makes you easier, I congratulate you on
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the assurance of the Earl and Sir Edward, that they will never more solicit your hand ; but yet I wish it could have been otherwise, altho' I am convinced it could not : the love you had for Mr. Grenville can never be transferred to another. I have sometimes expressed a wish it might. Pardon me, my Adeline ; I meant not to pain you ; but I only lamented so amiable a woman should be lost to society, by living for ever single ; but I will no more give you a moment's pain, by hinting the least desire of that sort. Your peace, my beloved Miss Belville, is dear to me as my own, nor would I in the smallest degree break in upon it.

Of ev'ry care I'd ease thy forrowing heart,
And, like a friend, sustain th' heavier part ;
To give thee peace, each moment I'd employ,
And make thy breast the residence of joy.

You will believe me, Adeline, indeed I would : there is nothing I would not undergo to promote your felicity, were it in my power ; I know you are convinced of this truth, and therefore I will say no more of it.

I will inform you, as you desire, of what has befallen me since I wrote last : I have an adventure to relate that I hope will amuse you. I had spent a day with my mother, Sir James Thompson, his aunts, and the family of Trout-

Trout-hall, at a most delightful spot they call Rose-farm; but as we had many things to detain us, we did not get there 'till very late, and had not time to look over half the beauties of the place. Sir James seeing I was greatly pleased with this spot, promised he would take me some day when we might have more time to pass there; accordingly yesterday morning, being a very fine one, he came early to the wood, and proposed going to Rose-farm. I had a little head-ach; but however, as I knew his stay was but short at Ashley-park, and the weather uncertain, I determined to go. My mother declined it, and we went alone in Sir James's chariot. We called on Emilia in our way, but they were all from home. We proceeded towards the farm, and after having ordered what we would have for dinner, set out on foot to prole about the country, which was the most delightful I ever beheld. Sir James was in high spirits, and I was very happy. He sought to entertain me by every method in his power, and you may imagine he succeeded. We loved sincerely, and every charm of nature that struck our eyes wore a more pleasing aspect on that account. The sun grew exceedingly warm. Sir James said we had better set down a little under the shade of some tree 'till we had recovered our fatigue. We did so, beneath the boughs of a large ash that stood on the margin.

gin of a thick wood; which to us appeared impenetrable: we were about two miles from the farm. On a rising ground behind us was an extensive wood, and in front a range of high hills, whose tops seemed to have reached the clouds; their towering heads were crowned with a thousand shades of variegated green; the prospect was so unbounded, that the human eye was obliged to withdraw, and could not take in the extent: at the bottom of these hills was a beautiful valley; through the midst ran a clear rapid river, whose pleasing meanings charmed and delighted the observer; on the margin of the water stood numberless trees, whose vivid cloathing vied with each other in freshness; the cool breezes that refreshed the springing flowers encouraged them to bloom, and they here displayed their various beauties in profusion; a large flock of sheep cropped the green verdure of the valley, and at the distance we were from them, appeared of a more snowy whiteness, and gave a grace to the whole inexpressibly pleasing.

We sat for some time admiring the uncommon beauties that surrounded us, 'till our conversation was agreeably interrupted by the tuneful warblings of a Robin that had placed himself upon a spray near us, and was pouring from his little throat the most delightful harmony. "How much are we obliged to that melo-

melodious bird, (said Sir James) for so kindly entertaining us! Even the feathered choir, my Harriet, rejoice when you are nigh them, and hail you as the fairest workmanship of nature. How distinguished am I, my best beloved, (continued he) to have obtained the heart of so much innocence and beauty!" "That heart is all your own, answered I; if the knowledge will make you happy, I joyfully inform you of it; I am above disguise, Sir James; your merit made the first impression on my mind, and that impression will remain indelible as long as I have life; all my apprehensions arise from a fear of not deserving the excessive tenderness you entertain for me." "My incomparable Harriet! replied he, let not a single doubt dwell on your gentle mind; you would deserve the admiration of an Emperor. Could I lay a crown at your feet, I should think your love more than equivalent for the glittering bauble."

Thus did this most amiable of men talk to his listening Harriet, while the sweet little Robin kept singing by us. At last quitting his seat, he flew down to where we were, and hopped near us, picking up some bits of cake that lay scattered about; for Sir James, always careful of me, had brought variety of cake in his pocket. I was delighted with the tameness of the bird, and taking a large piece,

threw it to him : he turned it several times to find the easiest method of conveyance, and at last placing it commodiously, flew away with it, and was quickly out of sight.

As we had rested a sufficient time, Sir James proposed that we should see what sort of a wood it was. After looking about a great while, we came to a narrow path, hardly passable on account of the boughs that grew luxuriant, and met in several places. We walked for some time with difficulty along this path, and as it seemed very long, Sir James proposed returning, fearing lest I should be too much tired ; but my curiosity was raised, and I told him I should like to see where that path would lead us. On we went, and having gone near a quarter of a mile farther, we suddenly came to a much wider walk, at the termination of which was a large open space. Here the most beautiful prospect struck my eyes that ever the hand of nature presented ; the finest natural cascade fell from a kind of rock that rose at the extent of the wood, and seemed to belong to the neighbouring river which flowed at its back : it was formed of large stone, washed white by the silver current that continually roared down its sides ; between the joinings of the rocky substance grew a quantity of moss ; that under the water had a most agreeable effect ; it was not clearly to be seen from whence
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the torrent came, as it appeared to burst out from numberless little cavities in the sides of the rock, and altogether rushed forwards into the earth from whence it arose, about fifty yards distance from its source, and made its rapid way into a new river, 'till it lost itself in the midst of the wood. On the left-hand of this lovely waterfall stood a small neat cottage, which we did not at first observe, being so deeply engaged in contemplating the liquid mirror, but now we turned our eyes upon it: the door was very small, and arched over with green boughs and flowers, which looked pretty and romantick; a little distance from the door was a large stone overgrown with moss; a single window adorned the habitation, which was nearly obscured by the quantity of jessamine with which it was loaded; the house was shaded in all parts by the trees that surrounded it, and stood like the residence of the Genii of the wood. We stood gazing at this sweet spot, and were advancing near it, when we were stopped by the appearance of a venerable old man, who walked from among the trees behind the cottage, and was advancing towards us. His eyes were intently fixed on a book he held in his hand, and as he did not see us, we had leisure to contemplate his figure: he was tall and genteel, but stooped a little with age; his complexion had, I dare say, once been a
 very

very good one, but Time had set his mark in deep wrinkles on his skin, and changed the natural hue of it to a fallower cast; his eyes were dark, and, as if unwilling to yield to age, still retained some of their youthful brightness; his hair, as white as silver, fell in no great quantity on a decent black coat, that, as well as the wearer, had once been modern, but by the singularity of its make, proclaimed its date to be some time back. He had an air of gentility about him that bespoke him a gentleman, and altogether was a most pleasing figure; sorrow seemed to have furrowed his cheek, but on his brow sat resignation, which seemed to say, "I have at last conquered, and am above misfortune." When first I beheld him, I thought him austere, but on a second view I found that look arose from a knowledge of the world; and though he was disgusted with the wickedness, he could pity the foibles of mankind: methought I read this sentiment clearly in the lines of his face. We stood gazing on him as he walked towards us, and when he came to the stone he set down on it, and continued looking on his book for some time. At length, shutting it, and laying it by him, "Plato, said he, thou wert indeed a philosopher;" he put his elbows on his knees, and fell into a thoughtful meditation. We had too much respect for his

appear-

appearance to disturb him, and leaning against a tree, we waited till he should perceive us.

His aged eyes intently mark'd the ground,
As list'ning nature stood, nor breath'd around;
Save where the waters fell, and bubbled near;
Then sought the wood, and died upon the ear.
The birds confin'd their notes, the winds their
rage,
And all creation seem'd to mark the sage.

In this thoughtful attitude he sat for some time, till the barking of his little dog caused him to look up: he seemed surprized at seeing strangers, but courteously arose and walked to us. "Whatever brings you to this retreat, (said he) you are welcome; and if the habitation of a poor man, who has not much to offer, will afford you a resting place, I shall be glad of your company. Perhaps the singularity of my way of life may give you some entertainment, young gentleman, nor will this lady often meet with a similar circumstance." "Sir, (answered Sir James) your appearance has fill'd us with respect and veneration, and we will with pleasure accept your obliging offer, as I fear this fair one is too much fatigued with our long walk. Captivated with the beauty of the place, we strayed farther than prudence would have suggested, and shall rejoice to repose ourselves.

selves a while." "If that is your desire, (replied the old gentleman) enter my humble roof, and be sure of a sincere reception, tho' not a grand one." We followed him, and he led us into a small room, which had a couch at one corner of it. The floor was matted, and all round the sides of the room were placed numberless books. The ceiling was very low: a small grate stood in a neat chimney, that looked bright and clean. Within this little room was another of equal dimension, that we could not see on the outside the cottage; from that came forth a middle-aged woman, and enquired if her master wanted any thing. "Susan, (said he) cannot you give this lady and gentleman something to refresh themselves with?" "I have a bottle of wine, sir, (answered she) which I will fetch immediately." "Do so, (replied the good man) then turning to Sir James, "I cannot experimentally tell you my wine is good, (said he) as I have not tasted it a great while; but I hope you will be able to drink a glass of it, as well as your beautiful companion, who reminds me of happier days." Here he stopped, and wiped his eyes, then proceeded: "Once I could boast a blossom fair and blooming as this lady, but long have I been robbed of it." The entrance of the woman prevented his going on; he walked to his window, and pulled from thence a sprig of jessamine.

mine. The servant handed a glass of wine to me, and a bit of plain cake: she did the same to Sir James, and then quitted the room. The old gentleman advanced to me, and taking me by the hand, "You must excuse, (said he) the want of politeness in an old man, unaccustomed to the world, and its prevailing modes. I should not have made the observation I did, had not your fair face reminded me of a once doated-on daughter; just such another angelic form as your's she possessed, but that is now over. I thought I had got the better of my painful sensations on her account, but the sight of you has again awakened them, and I feel as much as ever for my lost child. Pardon me, my good young lady, for thus distressing you, but I see the strongest similitude in your features to those of my once doated-on darling, and it has stirred up all the father in my soul!" he wiped the tears that trickled from his eyes in great abundance, and was quite overcome. Sir James and I were greatly affected: the speech and deportment of the old man was pleasing beyond any thing I had ever seen, and I felt for him the strongest affection. "I am ashamed, (said he) to give this expression of my weakness before you, but if you will give me leave, I will walk a moment, and return to you composed." We bowed, and he left the room. He came back in less than ten minutes, with
not

not a trace of sorrow on his countenance, and approached us with the utmost good humour. "How proud shall I be, (said he to Sir James) if I may again hope to see this charming young lady at my solitary retirement! I have conceived the strongest regard for her in the little time I have had an opportunity of seeing her: may I not hope you will sometimes condescend to visit my dwelling, madam? You will, by so doing, give to the remaining days of an old man some consolation, which he has for a long time been deprived of." "You may depend on it, sir, (answered I) and I will bring my mother to see you, who is the most amiable of women. She will permit her Harriet to look on you as a parent, and by every method in her power, try to soften the remaining hours of your life. Sir James too will allow me to love you, and attend you with all the duty of a child; and make up, if it is possible, for the loss of her you lament." "Condescending goodness! (replied he) had her mind been as like to you as her person was, I should have had no cause for lamentation; but we will talk no more of her. If the tenderest paternal affection and advice will repay you for the trouble you will be at to come thus to an almost impassable wood, to see an old man buried amid its shades, you will ever be received by me as you merit. Yes, my excellent young lady,

lady, bring your mother to my cot. I wish to congratulate her on a daughter like thee: but say, is this gentleman your brother? may I hope he will be my son?" "You may, reverend stranger, (answered Sir James) I am not brother to this lovely girl, but hope to be much nearer related to her: she is mine by love, and the marriage contract will some day make us one." He then told him his name and mine. The old man appeared delighted with us. "My dear children, (said he, taking a hand of each and joining them) may the Almighty bless you, and may your union be productive of exquisite felicity! I shall wait impatiently till you return from the noisy town, where this peaceful retirement would be looked upon as barbarous and wild." We hinted a desire to know who he was, and why he withdrew himself from the society of mankind, and lived thus secluded? He answered us with the utmost complacency: "I would inform you, my children, of what you wish to know, but as your stay with me now will be but short, I should not have time to go through what I have to say; but the next time you favour me with your company, I will relate to you my reasons for chusing this way of life. One thing I must beg to conceal, as it is a matter of no importance, and that is, my real name, and that of my child, under fictitious ones. I always

ways determined, when I adopted this method of life, not to reveal who I was to any person chance might conduct to my cottage; therefore I hope you will not desire to be informed of a matter so little important to you, and that will prove the means of making me forsake my fixed determination." "Far be it from me," answered Sir James, to wish to pry into what you may desire to conceal; that you will so far honour us with your confidence as to relate the circumstances of your life, will be a real satisfaction to my Harriet as well as myself; and depend upon it, Sir, we shall ever look on your condescension, as it deserves, with the utmost gratitude. I regret that it will not be in my power to see you frequently before I leave this part of the world, as that will be very speedily; but my gentle love will often visit you, and I shall rejoice to hear the good hermit is well." "My son, said he, shaking Sir James by the hand, thy felicity will ever be a material pleasure to my heart; I have conceived for you the greatest affection; and, for this sweet child's sake, I shall once more look forwards for satisfaction from a human being. The time has been when I thought no mortal could again give a moment's pleasure to my heart, and therefore sought this solitude; but I find ten years residence has not been able to efface the love I

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had implanted in my breast by the great distributor of all good, for my fellow creatures. Let me not be deceived in you, but sometimes visit my cell." We assured him we would, and departed from this agreeable old gentleman and his delightful retreat, with the utmost concern.

We got back to the farm time enough for dinner, which was eat with satisfaction, our whole discourse turning upon the venerable stranger. Soon after our rural repast, we set off to return to Elm-wood; as the days were short, we did not chuse to be very late. We were received with joy by my mother, to whom we related our adventure. She was charmed with our account of the hermit, as we called him (not knowing any other name), and wished to see his beautiful retreat. She engaged to attend us early in next week to his habitation. I confess, my Adeline, I am very desirous of again beholding this venerable old man, whose address and conversation are uncommonly pleasing. You shall certainly know why he retired from the world, as I can depend on your secrecy. I hope, my dear girl, the relation of this little event will draw your thoughts from too intense contemplation on the memory of Mr. Grenville, and for a moment amuse you. Would it was in my power to relieve entirely the uneasiness you labour under; but that wish is vain.

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vain. However, accept, my Adeline, the insignificant efforts of your Harriet, with complacency, and she will be happy. My mother sends her love to you, and joins me in admiring you more than ever. Sir James begs his compliments may be inserted, though unknown to you. Adieu, my much esteemed Miss Belville; believe me, you are infinitely dear to your affectionate

HARRIET ABINTON.

Captain MONTAGUE, to Sir HARRY EVELIN.

Parsonage-house.

YOUR last letter, Sir Harry, has discovered a truth to me that I had hardly reflected upon before; and that is, I find I cannot lose your friendship without infinite regret, and therefore will keep it on the conditions you prescribed. I will say no more of giving up Miss Belville, to whom I see you are firmly attached; but leave her virtues to make the impression they deserve. A few expressions in your last, have quieted my fears on her account; and I hope all will in time be as I wish. You tell me my alterations in opinion sit devilish awkwardly upon me: they may, Sir Harry; but I hope time will make them easy; at least, it shall not be my fault if it does not. Again you tell

me I am as deeply stained with violations of virtue as yourself; with shame I own I have been, but no longer will I violate, or assist in the violation of it. In every thing but this you may command me; but here I am not to be moved. I acknowledge reproof comes with no grace from me; but I have repented, and mean to amend, and therefore hope to meet pardon for what is past. The melancholy situation of Miss Ayfough, joined to my own reflections, have effected this change; and I trust I shall preserve the sentiments I now possess, to the end of my life. As I really esteem you, Sir Harry, from a variety of motives, it would give me infinite pleasure to see you as much convinced of the folly and depravity of your so long cherished opinions as I am; but to time and proper reflections I leave you, and will no more endeavour by arguments to dissuade you from a course you have so many years pursued; follow it, and it will sooner or later surely bring disgust along with it. The virtues of the lady, who now possesses you affection, will engage you to imitate them, in order to bring yourself nearer her heart, and you will hate and despise your former abuse of reason. I have no doubt but the purity of Miss Belville will resist all your attempts, and you will at last be induced to offer her your hand: may she accept it, and your happiness will be compleat.

compleat. I shall now hope to be favoured with your further communications, as I agree no more to mention the resignation of this lady, and am curious to know how you proceed. I communicated your offer of farther assistance to Miss Ayscough, but she declined it; she is entirely satisfied with the physician that at present attends her, and constantly answers, her's is not a disorder of the body, and therefore cannot come within physical skill. "Was I easy in my mind, Captain Montague, said she, (when I read that part of your letter to her) this poor emaciated form would quickly regain its former appearance, but while rancourous sorrow gnaws my heart, how can I look well? No, I am not a hypocrite; the mind's distress speaks in the body's ruin." "My dear madam, answered I, what can be done to relieve the anxiety you experience! I am very sure Sir Harry would omit nothing that might contribute to your recovery: he has the most tender regard still for you, and would do every thing in his power to make you easy. Speak, madam; say what shall I tell him you desire? only make known your request, and it is granted immediately." "Alas! Captain Montague, answered she, I have nothing to demand that Sir Harry can grant. He cannot give me back my peace of mind; he cannot restore that virgin innocence I once could boast; nor wake

the sleep of death, brought on me before its time; Oh, sir, speak not of relieving my anxiety; it is not to be done. Did Sir Harry love me now, as he once said he did, I could not be happy. I am infamous in my own eyes, and nothing could make me otherwise. He drew my youth astray, and made me the child of misery. Heaven knows how many hapless women besides may at this moment lament his perfidy! He cannot be constant; an angel would be deserted! how then could I vainly hope to hold him? But it is past, and I am justly punished. All I regret is my dear father brought to the grave with shame, and these innocent children that must ever bear their mother's infamy. As to myself, no earthly punishment is too great for me; I hope my sorrow will terminate with my life, and I am content." She stopped to wipe her tears that streamed in torrents down her cheeks, which when she had done, she again went on; "Tell Sir Harry I thank him for his offers, but I need them not; all I have now to ask is his protection for those unfortunate boys. I hope, Captain Montague, if it should please heaven to call me soon, you will not forget to recommend his children to his care. Perhaps he may feel a moment's pain for my early dissolution, and discover an emotion: watch when his feelings are excited, and adjure him, if he ever loved

loved the departed Emilia, to guard her children from want and insults: it is all I ask in return for the love I lavished on him, and the sacrifices I have made." I promised to obey her, if that dreaded event should take place; and intreated her not to give way to ideas so melancholy. She arose; and, after thanking me, left the room with an air of the greatest affliction: a man must have been stone that had not been affected with her woes. I confess I was, and stayed in the room near ten minutes without knowing it, so much had her speech distressed me. With a mind deeply touched by compassion, I left Fairy-hill, and sought the village. On my way I met the honest curate, who enquired the reason of my dejection; I evaded his question by saying I had a head-ach. He told me he was going to see Miss Ayscough, whom he had left the day before in a much more composed frame of mind than he had ever known her; and that he flattered himself he should find it increased. I told him I wished he might, and left him to pursue his charitable visit, while I betook myself in solitary silence to the Parsonage-house, where I had leisure to reflect on what had passed. I sat down to write to you, and could not help sending the real state of Emilia's health. I hope, Sir Harry, she may not leave this world very soon, but indeed I am apprehensive her stay will no

be long. I would wish you to prepare for the account of her death, in case it should be sudden: every possible care shall be taken of her, you may depend on it. Let me hear from you. I flatter myself our friendship will remain as it did: in that idea I subscribe myself your ever devoted

THOMAS MONTAGUE.

Captain FREEMER to Sir JAMES THOMPSON.

Rose-Hill.

YOU enquire the reason of my silence: why faith, Thompson, I cannot tell you; and I believe the conjecture you formed of my not being able to furnish out an epistle, is the best reason I can assign. Though I labour under this immense disadvantage, the fear of not hearing from you again induces me to write, yet I am convinced my production cannot afford you any amusement. I have no adventures to relate: we move on in the same regular, dull method that we have long done; the same rural prospect before us, and no variety even of characters; for hardly a person, except the parson of the parish, has been near us since we have resided at Rose-hill. Sir Richard is much better: I never remember him in such excellent spirits as now; he is infinitely delighted with me for staying with him so long, and assures me it shall not be the worse for me.

I fear,

I fear, if he knew to what my wishes tend, he would not be so lavish of his promises. Oh, Thompson, how soon would the fondness of Sir Richard vanish, if he thought I wanted to introduce a woman with less than sixty thousand pounds into his family! In vain would her blooming youth and matchless beauty plead; nothing less than that fortune would make the least impression on him. He talks of staying longer in the country if it is agreeable to me: as I find it has so good an effect on his health, I cannot think of making the least objection, and I fear I shall not be able to see you some time. However, let me know when you arrive in town, and if I can manage it so, I will meet you there. I find Mrs. Evelin thinks of returning to London, and I am desirous of seeing the charming Miss Belville, who still remains inexorable to the addresses of the Earl and Sir Edward, steadily adhering to her resolution of remaining for ever single.

I am concerned for Lord Arundel; Sir Edward I am not so well acquainted with, tho' report speaks him a very deserving man. You concluded right when you imagined I had heard from Louisa: in that letter she tells me, Miss Belville has reasons for acting in the manner she does towards our sex, truly justifiable and great; that she is not at liberty to disclose them at large, only so far as to acknowledge

her present aversion to marriage arises from a former tender attachment, in which she was disappointed; that she never will marry, and advises me no more to plead in favour of the Earl, for that it only pains Adeline, and will never induce her to change her resolution. I am determined to follow my gentle Louisa's advice, and no more endeavour by any means to induce her to lay aside her so long concluded-on way of life. The letter of Miss Somners occasioned infinite joy to my heart, but it was mixed with a less pleasing sensation. I carefully concealed this in the answer I sent her, but to you I cannot be silent on the occasion; though she gives me the strongest assurances of her love, yet I cannot help fearing the assiduities of the handsomest and most accomplished man in France will make some impression on her. She is become acquainted with the son of the Marquis de Reviers, a most amiable nobleman. This gentleman's father was the particular friend of Mr. Somners in the former part of his life, but from a variety of circumstances their intimacy was suspended, and at last in a manner broke off. Since they have been at Montpelier, Mr. Somners met the old Marquis, and renewed their former acquaintance with the utmost pleasure. The Marquis would not suffer my Louisa and her father to reside any where but at his house, and accordingly

ingly they are there. The dear girl, with all the delicacy in her power, endeavoured to banish any fears I might have on account of the Marquis, by assuring me her heart was sufficiently guarded against every perfection he might possess; but yet, in spite of this generous assurance, I cannot help being miserable. I knew the Marquis when I was in Paris, and he then promised to be the ornament of his nation: report speaks loudly in his favour. He will have continual opportunities of engaging the attention of Louisa, of exciting her gratitude by his endeavours to please her; and thus, absent from me, perhaps he may but too fatally succeed. Ah, Thompson, that idea distracts me! Yet surely I wrong her; she is not to be so easily led astray; but then the merit, the birth, the situation of the Marquis, plead so strongly! She may be overcome by the intreaties of her father, and forget her wretched Freemer, and give her hand to de-Reviers! How have I dressed up the most terrifying images, merely to torment myself! I can write no more. I thought not when I began this letter I should work myself to this pitch; but I will no longer trouble you with my uneasiness. Your's,

CHARLES FREEMER..

Miss

*Miss BELVILLE to Miss ABINTON.**Myrtle Grove.*

I Thank you, my dear Harriet, for your last kind letter, and the assurance it contained that you would no more speak to me on a subject that must ever give pain to my heart; a subject once thought on with pleasure, but now regarded with disgust. My union with my ever-beloved Mr. Grenville, I thought would compleat my happiness: it pleased heaven to prevent it, and I am, I hope, tolerably content; but as to thinking of marriage with another man, I cannot; the injustice would be infinite; I could not make a proper return to the tenderness of him to whom I gave my hand, and therefore I will never marry. You find that even Mr. Sommers blames me for this resolution in his letter, and tells me the virtues of my Augustus again survive in the Earl and Sir Edward. Ah, Harriet! but my adored Grenville himself is dead; the only man that ever taught my heart the soft sensations of love, is gone for ever! how then can I marry? no, it is next to impossible; my resolution will continue to the end of my life, and I thank you for conforming to it. I well knew all you ever said against it was meant for my happiness, and therefore claims my gratitude. Your re-

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tion of the wood adventure agreeably entertained me : I am interested in the story of the venerable inhabitant of those shades : how I should enjoy the sight of his retirement, so beautifully described by your pen ! I think, my Harriet, love has made you more compleat than ever, if that was possible. The stile of your last letter was delightful, particularly the poetic lines, so inimitably descriptive of the silent attention that marked the contemplations of the sage. Omit not giving me a particular account of your next visit to his residence ; I am all curiosity : that pleasing relation did not only amuse, but delighted me for a great while. Yet, my Harriet, it drew not my contemplations from the memory of Mr. Grenville ; it rather encreased them. Your account of the conversation between yourself and Sir James, brought a similar one to my remembrance that passed between my Augustus and your Adeline in a place nearly as charming as you described that to be. I rejoiced at your happiness, and dropt a tear for mine that was fled. Thus once blessed was I in the love of an amiable and deserving man ; but how soon were those golden prospects overclouded ! death snatched him from me ! O, gracious heaven, avert so sad a catastrophe to my Harriet's innocent affection !

Such ideas possessed my mind when I read that part of your letter. You need not fear I shall

shall so intensely reflect on my former comforts, as to neglect those Heaven has left me; that would be ungrateful to its providence. I feel my losses, yet I am properly sensible of the blessings which still are mine, and I hope am grateful for them. I shall never cease to reflect on Mr. Grenville, but I think on the many virtues that were his with a composed sorrow: had it pleased his maker to have spared him to me, he would have led my weakness through many difficulties that it may now fall into, without his guidance. I often think, when I am going to do any thing material, would Augustus have acted thus? and endeavour to form myself by his excellent example. Tho' his life was short, yet it was full of instruction. Benevolent from his childhood, he would have assisted the meanest of God's creatures indiscriminately in distress: his Adeline would do so too, and by following his steps, render herself worthy to follow him to the bright region where he now resides. These thoughts, my Harriet, make my comfort, joined to the partial affection of my numerous friends. The solemnity of this letter is but an ill return for the entertainment of your's: I will therefore proceed to inform you of what has happened since my last, and by that means, I hope, convince you I do not think too much.

of

of what is gone, but turn my observations a little to the present scene.

The day after the visit of Lord Arundel and Sir Edward to the grove, I wished to go to the cottage, and know of the old woman if she had heard any thing about the poor girl that had left her peaceful retirement; tho' I conjectured she had not, as she had sent me no account of her. At breakfast, I told Mrs. Evelin I would take an airing, as she proposed leaving the country so soon. Sir Harry, who was present, begged leave to attend me, to which I made not the least objection, as my former one was entirely removed. Our horses were ordered, as I chose to ride, and old William prepared to attend us. Where do you mean to ride, Miss Belville?" (said Mrs. Evelin) "To the cottage, madam, (answered I) and enquire if the old woman has heard any thing of the deluded creature that fled from my protection." By chance I looked on Sir Harry, and saw him in infinite confusion, which, on my observing, seemed to increase, therefore I withdrew my eyes. I was a good deal surprised, but soon after it was accounted for. The horses were brought to the door, and I was seated on mine, when Sir Harry putting his hand to his head, said he was taken suddenly ill, and begged I would stay a little for him, till he was something recovered, and he would attend

attend me. I insisted he should not go; his sister joined me, and after much persuasion he returned to the house, and I went to the cottage with William, who was quite happy to have the honour of conducting me, as he termed it. The old woman told me she had never heard nor seen any thing of her guest since the hour of her departure; nor did she imagine she ever should. I returned quite low on her account. Poor thing! perhaps she is exposed to want and misery; and is fearful of again applying to me. Little does she know the heart of your Adeline! if she repents, she will meet a real welcome to my protection. I found Sir Harry sitting in the great chair alone in the dining-room: he was lost in thought; at first I believed him to be asleep; the opening of the door caused him to look up. "Sister, (said he) I am not asleep; you may come in." "It is not Mrs. Evelin, Sir Harry, (answered I) how do you do?" "Better, my amiable Miss Belville, (replied he, rising, and taking my hand) I hope you have had an agreeable ride." "A very pleasant one, but not so agreeable as I could wish, for I am disappointed in not hearing any thing of the poor girl that was there some time ago." "Oh, my dear madam, (said he) if you imagined she would again put herself into your protection, after she had once flown from it, you only deceived yourself.

No,

No, Miss Belville; assure yourself she is now in the hands of her seducer, and will never again come into your's: nor indeed if she would, could you receive her with propriety, as she has acted so ill." "I would pass by her actions, Sir Harry, and receive her as kindly as ever, would she return; but she knows not this, and therefore will suffer every distress rather than again throw herself on my mercy. The generality of the world, in such a case, would be very rigorous, but she has no rigour to apprehend from me; this the unhappy girl is unacquainted with, and therefore fears to make known her retreat." "The world, Miss Belville, answered he, in cases of this sort, is justified in being rigorous, for more than half the distressed persons we meet with, are impostors, and merit not the regard you would shew them; and I fear, my dear lady, in this case there was more of deceit than reality: the flight of the girl after your generous behaviour to her, proves it. As to the excuse she left behind her, it was a mere shallow artifice, and no proof of her innocence." The entrance of Lord Arundel and Sir Edward prevented my reply, and our discourse became general. How cruel, my Harriet, in Sir Harry not to allow the least for this unhappy girl! How contradictory are these sentiments and his conduct to Farmer Hawthorn, whom he has placed in a farm of
his

his own, and the poor man is like to do very well. I confess this circumstance had greatly endeared him to me; I looked on him with respect, and behaved with that openness and affection that I should have done to my father, and yet he will not act uniformly. Why should he say so much against the poor distressed creature I relieved at the cottage, for no reason that I can fathom, except in contradiction to me? I cannot find out his character, and therefore must let him rest.

The gentlemen came to beg the favour of our company the next day to a rural entertainment; we promised to go. I asked them what our amusement was to be, and on what account? Lord Arundel answered, it was on account of Sir Edward leaving Belmont-abbey; and as to what it was, he could not say, as his friend had not informed him. I expressed my sorrow that we were going to lose him. He thanked me with his speaking eyes. "I shall not greatly entertain you, my dear Miss Belville, I fear," said he; the amusement you are to partake of, is no more than a dance, for which I beg the honour of your hand:" "Certainly," answered I, as you are going, Sir Edward, I am your's for the evening." "This acceptance of my friend, madam," said Lord Arundel, gives me infinite satisfaction; permit me to thank you for it," "Generous man," exclaimed Sir Edward,

ward,

ward, turning from him, you will always outdo me !” I whispered my approbation of his conduct to Lord Arundel, and followed Sir Edward to the window. “ We shall meet in town, sir, said I, you are not going far into Yorkshire ?” “ My dear Miss Belville, answered he, but I shall return as soon as possible.” “ I hope you will, replied I ; you must consider your stay will make your friends uneasy, and me particularly, as I may want your advice.” “ Generous girl ! (said he, taking my hand, his eyes glistening with sensibility) how much am I obliged to you ! every hour shews me the value of your friendship in a stronger light, and I would willingly stay with you for ever ; but a relation that is in ill health wishes to see me ; and as she has left her fortune to me, in gratitude I cannot deny her. I shall think it an age till I see you again, Adeline,” said he, sighing. “ I shall not be less impatient, Sir Edward.” He pressed my hand to his lips : “ this is too much, indeed it is ; I do not deserve such affection.” “ You do, my friend, answered I, and such I shall ever feel for you.” We were interrupted, and they stayed not much longer. Sir Harry was unusually polite and agreeable after their departure, and commended my conduct towards them in the highest terms, declaring no woman but myself would treat men so generously ; with
many

many more compliments, that are far too extravagant and tedious to repeat.

I must leave you, my dear Harriet, sooner than I intended, but will resume my pen the first opportunity, and give you an account of the day we spent at the Abbey, though it has lost half its life and spirit by the absence of Charlotte, who is very well, and talks of leaving Beach-grove early in October, which will quickly be here. Adieu, my esteemed friend.

Ever thine,

ADELINE BELVILLE.

P. S. Let me know when you will favour me with your company in town, and I will certainly meet you ten miles on the other side of it.

Miss DUNCANNON to Mrs. DUNCANNON.

Beach-Grove.

UPON my word, madam, I am so ashamed of my silence that I hardly know how to address you; and had I not received so many instances of your partial indulgence to your faulty Charlotte, I should not dare to do it at all. I throw myself upon your mercy, and plead guilty; but I flatter myself the justice of my beloved mother will yield to her affection.

We

We are in good health, and as happy as you can imagine. Caroline wishes for you, in which Mr. Aimworth and I both sincerely join. The peaceful content and sincere affection that subsists between this couple, is enough to put one in conceit with matrimony; and did I imagine so great a share of conjugal comfort was in store for me, I would put on shackles immediately; for you must know I am in very good humour with Medway just now, as his behaviour to me, at his uncle's, was very proper and respectful. You may say what you will, but there is nothing like keeping up one's dignity with these men. George would have been a perfect bashaw, was it not for my management; but by a due exertion of authority, I have brought him to behave pretty well, though sometimes his natural bent will appear. You have often blamed me for abusing the power his affection gave me over him, and called it coquetry, tyranny, and I know not what; but upon my honour, madam, however unnecessary such a conduct might be in the last age, 'tis absolutely impossible to do without it now. You have often told me you never had a quarrel with my father during your courtship; how you contrived to pass that insipid time, for my life I cannot understand. Why the airs of one's lover now, affords as much entertainment to a modern lady as her monkey; and
unless

unless she was to keep him at a proper distance, he would as soon tear her ruffles: the case is strangely altered, when a lover, a hundred years back, would sigh out a whole seven years to obtain a single smile from the sovereign of his affection, and think himself well paid if he obtained it at last, while the enamorado of the present times will boldly burst open the door of a lady's dressing-room; supposing he is a beau, advances to her toilet, surveys himself from head to foot; and, in consideration of his own irresistible figure, seize her hands, exclaiming "*ma chere ange*, I die to be possessed of this assemblage of charms." The date of their acquaintance a few evenings standing; presuming on the length of it, he will plead for the happy day; and in order to induce her to shorten his probation, assure her they will take a trip to Paris immediately after the wedding. If the lady rejects him, then he is falling on his sword, or perhaps, being very heroick, he leaves the room, singing;

I scorn to reflect

On a lady's neglect,

Or barter my peace for a toy.

Can you wonder, madam, when the behaviour of our modern swains is so different from those of a century back, our treatment of them

them should be changed? if we were not to estimate them as a watch trinket, the creatures would be so insufferably vain, there would be no enduring their self-sufficiency. I do not insinuate Medway is one of these fine gentlemen, and therefore treat him with the distinction he merits; though, unless a proper share of severity was preserved by me, I should find him at times very insolent. Seriously, mama, I have the utmost regard for the Colonel, but he has a few faults that I would wish to remedy, and therefore often behave to him in contradiction to my better judgment, merely on that account. Whenever I give him my hand, all controversy from that moment is at an end. I will study to oblige him as much as is in my power, and I flatter myself we shall not have many quarrels after marriage, but exhaust all ill-nature before.

I promised you an account of our visit to the castle, and will now fulfil my engagement. As I had not seen Sir William Medway a great while, I determined to appear as smart as possible, in order to justify his nephew's *penchant*, and therefore put on my last new pink and silver gown, a white lutestring puckered petticoat, flounced with silver net. Caroline only wore a brocaded sacque, trimmed with blond. Mr. Aimworth was dressed in an apple-green coat, white fatten waistcoat and breeches; he looked
very

very elegant, and I thought particularly handsome: Caroline told him so as soon as he entered the room, but I was apprehensive it might raise his vanity too much, and therefore was silent 'till my sister demanded my thoughts on the matter. "Why, upon my word, Caroline, said I, he looks more creditable to-day than he does in general, and will do very well to escort us." He thanked us for our compliments, and taking out his glass told us, he might with justice return it, and assure us, he never saw two more lovely women in his life. "My Caroline, said he, looks uncommonly beautiful, kissing her hand; and as to Charlotte, the Colonel will never stand the fire of those eyes." I thought he meant an insult on the bravery of my soldier, and therefore resented it properly, the explanation of this circumstance took up a good deal of time, and then bidding the brats adieu, detained us near another hour; and for all my persuasions, we were not seated in the coach 'till near three. I was in agonies, lest Sir William had set down to dinner, for he is as regular as the clock, but fortunately we were time enough. I begged we might not drive across the draw-bridge, as the danger was certainly great; therefore we stopped, and determined to walk over. The Colonel appeared to lead me, but I planted Mr. Aimworth and all the servants I could collect

collect on each side, to prevent my tumbling in. When I was got safe on the other side, I looked round with wonder; the immense walls of the castle were enough to frighten one, and I had some scruples of conscience whether I should enter, not knowing but they had contrived a plot; but recollecting that Medway was tolerably honest, I suffered him to lead me on, and halted at the door to give the married pair precedence. "My amiable Charlotte, whispered George, (while Mr. and Mrs. Aimworth went first) my uncle is prepared to admire you; and the appearance you make to-day, cannot fail to delight him: you look absolutely divine." "Yes to be sure, Colonel, because you are delighted with a pink and silver gown, for I know 'tis the shew of my dress that strikes you, you think your uncle is to be affected with a little tinsel likewise; upon my word, you give me an excellent idea of his understanding." "Say what you please, my love, answered he, I am too happy in your company, and the contemplation of your beauty, to complain." "Ah, then you don't mind what I say? very well, Medway; then I shan't speak to you to-day." "Cruel girl, said he, with an air of dejection (well enough) why will you not suffer me to enjoy your society, who am so tenderly attached to you, while you per-

mit strangers to share the blessings that are justly mine?" "Why, Colonel, I thought you was not to complain; but come, you have behaved tolerably, and if you continue as civil all day, you shall have no reason: I may talk more to strangers, but perhaps I think more of you." "I live again, said he, with the utmost satisfaction; oh Charlotte, 'tis in your power to make me miserable." "Since you acknowledge it, said I, I will not abuse that power; but come, you see my brother and sister are out of sight, let us follow them; your uncle will wonder we do not appear." "If he knew how happy I was, he would rejoice at our delay; but I will attend you, my Charlotte."

We entered the room: "what has detained you, sister? said Mr. Aimworth, I suppose you have been making some critical observations on the walls of the castle; Sir William was coming to seek you." I coloured a little at this address, and gave him a good expressive look for it, but it seemed to have no effect, for he laughed, and audibly whispered Caroline that I ought to be obliged to him for calling that additional colour in my face, as it was an infinite advantage to me. This provoked me horribly, but I was obliged to put up with it, and suffered Medway to lead me to Sir William without saying a word to Mr. Aimworth.

"Receive,

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“Receive, my dear Sir, said he, the most lovely of her sex, and the entire mistress of my heart; I have the honour of introducing Miss Duncannon to you.” The old gentleman made an effort to rise, but his gout prevented him. I begged he would sit still, and hoped I saw him better. “My dear madam, answered he, I thank you, I am much mended, but unable to move, or I should not have sat still when so fair a lady entered the room. Why, George, this is indeed a daisy; I never saw a finer girl in my life: you rogue, this is better than going abroad; this is something like, this is something like, repeated he, rubbing his hands. Yes, yes, I thought you had a good taste, you would not have been a Medway else; but I had no notion I should find her so handsome. I concluded half you said was lover’s rapture, and had no existence; but I must confess this lady is very fair, very fair, indeed. You need not blush, madam, ’tis true, upon my soul. I never saw during the whole time I attended at court, and that was twenty years, madam, so fine a woman; indeed I never did, you may believe me; the word of Sir William Medway, continued he, (pulling up his gouty stockings) was always as good as his bond; and I again repeat, I never saw so fine a girl in my life.” “Your approba-

bation, Sir William, answered I, does me a great deal of honour, and I shall always be happy to deserve it." "I dare say you will, madam, said he, and I am sure you will always have it. Hem, hem ! upon my soul, George, she is a prodigy of sense ; I am half in love with her myself ; no other woman would have been approved of by me : but I knew you was a Medway, and depended on your taste. Ha, Mr. Aimworth, I did well, certainly I did well ; I have been an excellent uncle to him ; indeed he deserved it, he is a good boy, a very good boy ; prodigiously like his poor father, who was a lad of infinite spirit, and as good a soldier as ever lived. Having no children of my own, I determined to adopt George, as his mother was a woman I regarded very much ; for you must know this lad's father always asked my opinion in every thing, because I was his elder brother, and besides he had a great dependance on my judgment, and therefore consulted me on his marriage. I saw the lady, and finding she was beautiful and well descended, consented to the match directly. Though I was a great admirer of beauty, I could not give up birth ; and as both were united in this lady, we did not stand upon the matter of fortune, but tied them together with the utmost expedition. The mother of this young gentleman died five years after his birth, when

when my brother was out of England, which caused me to take her son. When the poor Captain returned, he was so shocked at his wife's death, that it broke his heart in a little time. He was an honest and worthy man, and I remember him as an honour to his family. He left his son to my care, and intreated me, when he was old enough, to let him go into the army, if he had the least inclination for that school of honour and bravery. To make him happy, I promised he should; but it cost me many a pang for his safety. Would you believe it, ladies, when he was going to leave the kingdom, as I thought, I was miserable; and when he had a reprieve, no school-boy could behave more foolish? To be sure I have the greatest affection for him, and he has pleased me so much in the disposal of his heart, that I could, and will resign my whole fortune to him on the day of marriage. But, upon my soul, ladies, I ought to make a great many apologies to you, for thus taking up your time; however I hope you will pardon a talkative, old, gouty fellow; that is happy to a degree to see all he wished likely to be accomplished in the union of this object of his paternal regard with a lady so fair and of so good a family." "My dear sir," answered Caroline, make not the least apology, we are all delighted to see you in such high spirits, and share in

your satisfaction. I dare say Charlotte will increase it as much as is in her power." "Yes, yes, replied Sir William, I have no doubt but she will: she is all good nature and smiles. Tell me, young lady, will not you make an old man happy?" "Indeed, sir, I will make you perfectly so, answered I, if it is in my power." "That it is, upon my soul, returned he: only give your hand to this young man, and tell him you will one day be his wife. I hear you have not absolutely promised him; only let me hear you say so, and I shall be as happy as a king." I did not expect this, and I believe looked very foolish and hung down my head, hesitated, and was in the utmost confusion. "Come, come, madam, said Sir William, (taking my hand, and looking in my downcast face) you will make George happy, upon my soul you must; let me give him this hand, and tell him it shall one day be his." "It shall, sir, answered I, (giving Medway my hand) I promise the Colonel to be his wife, but I must not be pressed for the performance of that promise; he must engage to wait till I voluntarily fulfil it." "Yes, that he shall, said Sir William, rubbing his hands: that's right, that's right, just as it should be, upon my soul. George shall not solicit the performance of your promise till you are inclined to fulfil it; if he does, I will disenherit him."

"You

"You need not apprehend, sir, I shall act contradictory to your inclinations in this respect," (answered the Colonel); then addressing me, and taking my hand with the greatest respect, "My Charlotte's commands shall be my guide; you have made me too happy, my love; I want words to express my felicity; my feelings crowd so fast upon me, I cannot give utterance to them; my life alone can speak the joy I feel at this moment."

He pressed my hand, and seated himself by me. Sir William was overjoyed, and seemed to have forgot his gout, but it soon reminded him by a sudden twinge: however, he declared he did not value it a brass farthing, for he would be content to suffer a severe fit to compleat his nephew's happiness. Mr. and Mrs. Aimworth congratulated us both so seriously, that it was some time before I was clear whether I was not married in earnest, instead of being only promised; but I soon reflected that the knot was not tyed, and there were yet some hopes of escape; however I did not tell the good people this idea, but suffered them to enjoy the satisfaction I had occasioned without interruption. To confess the truth, I was far from unhappy myself; the tender and delicate behaviour of Medway on this occasion, had made a kind of impression that I never felt before in his favour, and I passed a most agree-

able day. Sir William would hardly suffer me out of his sight to see the Castle; however, after much persuasion, he permitted the Colonel to attend me: it is nobly furnished, and very spacious. I did not take much notice of it, as Medway kept talking to me on a much more interesting subject: he pleased me so well in that conversation, that I declare to you, madam, I did not repent the promise I had made in his favour all day, nor ever since. At parting, Sir William made us engage to see him every day, which we have regularly done, and he appears fonder of your Charlotte every hour. Will not my amiable mother be amazed to find, from my own hand, that her mad-headed girl has absolutely contracted herself, and to the satisfaction of all her friends? Who would have thought I should ever proceed so mechanically? I swear I can hardly believe it myself. I thought to find Medway give himself airs on my preference, but no such thing; he is, if possible, more humble, and attentive to oblige than before. In short, my dear madam, I find the woman who makes choice of a man of sense, has nothing to fear from acknowledging her partiality. I have wrote a long letter, but I need not make any apologies. Be so obliging as to shew this letter to Miss Belville; I flatter myself she will honour my conduct with her approbation; she was always

ways a strong advocate for the Colonel, and it will delight her gentle nature to find I have removed his apprehensions. I am glad you have seen her History: I could not have told you the heads of it without breaking my heart. Was there ever such a woman! I love her beyond idea. To confess the truth, that affecting narrative of her's was the chief reason that influenced me to make the concessions I did to Medway; I thought how miserable I should be was heaven to snatch him from me, and he be ignorant of my attachment from my own lips. Adieu, my dearest and ever honoured madam: accept the duty of all your children, with that of your

CHARLOTTE DUNCANNON.

P. S. Sir William and the Colonel beg leave to kiss your hands; the latter sends his respects to Miss Belville, Lord Arundel and Sir Edward; as I do.

Miss BELVILLE to Miss ABINTON.

Myrtle-Grove.

I Set down to inform my Harriet in what manner we spent yesterday. As I knew the entertainment of the evening, I dressed a good deal. We went early to the Abbey, and were

received with the utmost satisfaction by the whole family. Sir Edward was rather out of spirits on account of his departure, but otherwise very agreeable. We passed the day pleasantly, and about six in the evening the company began to come. When they were all collected together they made a brilliant appearance. Lord Arundel danced with a Miss Ambrose, a very great beauty: I hoped his fair partner might make some impression on him, but no such thing; his eyes were always turned towards your Adeline. When we had gone down one dance, we found the heat so insupportable, that we agreed not to dance any longer, but to order the musick in the wilderness. This was proposed by Sir Edward, and immediately consented to by all the company. Accordingly, when we had rested half an hour to recover ourselves from the fatigue of our first dance, we retired to the wilderness; each gentleman leading his partner. Sir Edward and I, being deeply engaged in conversation, struck into a different path from the rest of the company. The evening was beautifully serene; the gloomy appearance of the trees, thro' which the moon emitted her silver beams, joined to the twinkling of the stars, made it delightful; the distant fall of the waters had a pleasing effect from the stillness of the night. You may remember, my Harriet, I formerly described

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described this beautiful place to you. We had rambled without intention to the utmost extent of it. The shade of the trees began to disappear, and the moon shone forth in all her glory. We seated ourselves on a bench, and viewed the celestial prospect round us with the utmost veneration.

A power divine gave all these wonders birth,
And fix'd them high to light this spot of earth :
The moon's bright orb, form'd by his high commands,
Speaks the performance of almighty hands.
All nature hails him as supreme and good ;
We trace the deity through ev'ry flood :
The dashing seas proclaim his power on high,
And praise the God enthron'd above the sky.

“ How much pleasure will the reflection of these few short minutes give me, Miss Belville, said Sir Edward, when I am far from you ! I shall regard this evening as the happiest of my life. Oh, that I could crowd the remainder of it into the contracted space of this night, I should be exquisitely happy for a little time, and then have no more to do with earth, but quit it with the same satisfaction a distressed man leaves his prison for the inheritance of a great fortune and a stately dwelling ! Perhaps you might

might shed one tear over my grave, and say, 'Here sleeps one that had a real affection for me; I do not injure the memory of Mr. Grenville by this small tribute I pay to his love.' That idea, continued he, my Adeline, would make me happy in my dying moments."

"Alas, Sir Edward, said I, why do you talk thus melancholy? I should shed many tears for you; nor would the shade of my Augustus be offended at it, was he acquainted with it. Your friendship would certainly demand at least the poor tribute of tears; Mr. Grenville himself would have given them to you, had he known the regard you entertained for his Adeline. He was the most generous of men, and would have been the first to have lamented worth like your's, had it pleased heaven to have permitted him to outlive you. But let us not think of those serious subjects now: when do you think of returning?"

"Inimitable goodness! said he, kissing my hand, how delicately do you behave? Oh, Miss Belville, my affection for you is and shall be what you desire; I look on you as my sister: will you not in that character suffer me to inform you of what happens to me? You may depend on my returning to the place that will hold all I tenderly regard in the world, with the greatest expedition in my power, but say, my amiable girl, is the request I have made too presumptuous, or may I hope to have it

it granted?" "You may, Sir Edward, returned I; I shall rejoice to hear of your welfare, and will answer your letter with the pleasure of a sister who writes to a justly beloved brother." "I thank you, cried he, I wish I could command expressions sufficiently descriptive to convey to you the feelings your uniformity of conduct has excited; but that is impossible: my heart is too much affected by your goodness to express its sensations in the common form of language; it would yield its vital heat to make you happy, yet it cannot tell you so." He was all agitation. I laid my hand on his arm with the greatest expression of affection; "You need no farther explain your feelings, said I, they are well understood by me; your looks, your behaviour reveal them to me more forcibly than any words can do; be assured I am truly sensible of your regard, and feel for you, as I have often told you, the purest and most disinterested friendship. My gratitude is engaged by the many kind marks of esteem I have received from you, and will never end but with my life." "I am satisfied, replied he, my dear, angelic girl; forgive me for the melancholy turn I would have given our discourse, but you have convinced me that I was to blame, in the tenderest, the most delicate manner. How little am I worthy of the regard you honour me with, who am so much your
infe-

inferior ! But I am apprehensive you will take cold : had we not better return to the house ?”

“ I began to think of it, Sir Edward,” said I. We arose, and again immersed among the thickest of the wilderness, in many places entirely impervious to the beams of the moon. We talked on matters less serious, and I observed with pleasure, he began to recover his spirits, when suddenly turning out of the path, we came to the bottom of the long walk that leads up to the temple of love ; an appearance of light caused me to look up, and the nobleness of the sight agreeably surprized me. The walk was illuminated with numberless lamps, hung in a variety of forms round the trees ; a quantity of the freshest flowers were strewed upon it, that occasioned a charming perfume. The temple was illuminated in the same manner ; all round the pillars were festoons of lamps that made it as light as day ; a beautiful, transparent painting appeared over the dome, representing Friendship with her hand on the head of a boy drawn as Cupid, and laid asleep by her power : She held a myrtle sprig in her hand, that was inimitably imitated, and proved the skill of the artist. The appearance of the company, the music, and the elegance of the decorations, were the most agreeable surprize I had for some time experienced. I told Sir Edward how much I was charmed with

with the elegance of his taste. "It makes me infinitely happy, Miss Belville, said he, to have any efforts of mine meet with your approbation, and especially those that were done to entertain you; among which the present was intended." "I thank you, Sir Edward, returned I, you will confer so many obligations upon me, that I shall not be able to return them." He was prevented from replying by Lord Arundel and Miss Ambros, who joined us. I observed an evident desire in this lady to attract the attention of the Earl; and was sorry to find that, with her beautiful person, she possessed a less beautiful mind; an air of arrogance sat on her features, and she seemed to think no woman but herself, among the company, deserved the least notice. She approached me with a visible air of triumph, as if she thought her being with a man of quality intitled her to it. I could not help smiling as she advanced. My Lord let go her hand to speak to Sir Edward. "Do you know Lord Arundel, madam?" said she to me with a careless gesture. "I do, madam," answered I. "Well, I vow he is immensely handsome, said she, and the gallantest man that ever I met with. I had no idea how infinitely agreeable he was till he begged me to dance with him, and then indeed I discovered it." "He not only possesses the qualifications you have named, madam,

madam, answered I, but he has one of the best hearts that ever adorned a human being. I have had an opportunity of knowing his worth on more occasions than one, and I may with justice pronounce, he is really an honour to the rank in which he is placed." "Very likely, madam, replied she with a vacant look, I think he dresses the best, and is the most elegant nobleman I know." The approach of the Earl stopped her proceeding. "My charming Adeline, said he, taking my hand, Sir Edward has informed me of your condescension; how much am I obliged to you for it? you have made me happy by your attention to my friend. How infinitely are you superior to the little forms and punctilios of custom! you are worthy to shine forth the dignified example, and to meet the adoration of all mankind." "Oh no, my lord, answered I, smiling, that would be too much; but had we not better enter the temple? I fear this young lady may find some effect from the evening air, not quite so agreeable." "The caution is certainly right, madam, answered my Lord, and for heaven's sake, take care of your own health; reflect what would become of Sir Edward and me, if you was to be ill." I smiled, and gave my hand to Wilmot, as Miss Ambros did her's to my Lord, with a look of the utmost astonishment at our intimacy. We all went into the

the temple, where we found the rest of the company. As soon as Sir Harry saw us he advanced towards me, "This residence of love, (said he) wanted nothing to make it compleat but the presence of Venus, who not being able to come herself has sent a nymph still fairer to supply her place. That seat, madam, continued he, pointing to an ivory throne that stood at the upper end of the room, is only fit to receive such unrivalled beauty as your's." I looked towards it, and saw in large letters this inscription wrote over it, "The seat prepared for beauty's self." He took one hand, and Sir Edward the other, and was leading me towards it, but I stopped, and smiling, thanked them for the compliment they meant to pay me, tho' I must beg leave to decline it. Sir Harry protested that no woman in the world but myself was fair enough to set there, and insisted I should comply. "I am obliged to you, Sir Harry, (returned I) for the partiality you shew me, as well as the rest of my friends, but if that affection makes you so blind, I must beg leave to make use of my own reason in this case, and absolutely refuse to take that seat, which for me will ever remain vacant." "That it shall, madam, (answered Sir Edward) if you will not honour it with an acceptance, no other can be properly placed there." Miss Ambross seemed not at all pleased at this piece of

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gallantry offered to me, especially as her partner joined in begging me to comply with their intreaties, for which reason I was sorry, as I cannot bear to give pain to any one.

Sir Harry was in amazing spirits, and very agreeable; full of compliments to me, but I had been so long used to them that I did not greatly attend to what he said. We danced in the temple, which was elegantly decorated, for several hours, and no objection was made to the heat; indeed, this was much cooler than the house. When we were tired we returned to the next room, where an elegant collation was prepared. The music played all the time we were at supper, and nothing could be better conducted: When we had finished, dancing was again proposed, but declined by almost all the company. Sir Edward whispered me he should be happy to speak a word to me in the other room: I arose and walked with him thither. He was silent a moment; at last, "My dear Miss Belville, (said he) perhaps you will be displeased that I intreated your company only to bid you adieu. I am going to leave you, perhaps something may prevent our ever meeting again; not that I think there will, but human nature is liable to so many calamities, we are not secure a moment." "Indeed we are not, (answered I, sighing) but I hope Heaven will restore you to me, and the rest of
your

your friends in safety." "I hope so too, (said he) but yet, Adeline, if it should not, I shall have the satisfaction of reflecting I have taken a last farewell of you. Adieu, most beloved of women! (continued he, throwing his arms about me) Permit me this one dear embrace at parting with you! may the great guardian of the universe preserve you from every ill, and make your days pass on in peaceful serenity." He stopped, and wetted my cheek with the drops of sensibility that fell from his eyes. I could not conceal my feelings, but expressed them by liquid torrents. "May every wish for my safety, (answered I) return on your own head, my ever-esteemed friend; and every desire of my heart in your favour be granted, and then you will be exquisitely happy. I depend on your promise of hearing from you, that only will console me for your departure." He could not answer, but arose, and walked up and down the room, evidently discomposed. At length, coming more to himself, he approached, and taking my hand, "We will return to the company, Miss Belville, (said he) I am perfectly contented; you are all goodness madam: I shall ever remember your behaviour this evening with the most heart-felt satisfaction." We entered again the other room, after I had wiped the soft traces of sensibility from my cheek. No one observed us but Lord Arundel.

Arundel. “Engaging softness! (said he, pressing my hand) how does that glist’ning drop add to the brilliancy of your eyes!” I seated myself, and we staid after this some time longer. The company began to go, and Mrs. Evelin enquired if I was ready. I told her I was; the coach drove to the door; Sir Edward put me into it. “Once more farewell, (said he, in a low voice) Heaven preserve you!” Sir Harry stepped in, and prevented my reply: I kissed my hand to him, and the carriage drove off.

Mrs. Evelin talked a good deal to her brother, but I joined not in their discourse, my thoughts were engaged by the amiable Sir Edward. I retired to my own apartment as soon as we came home, and attempted to sleep, but the agitation of my spirits prevented me a great while: at length I succeeded, and in a temporary oblivion lost the remembrance of every thing. I fear I have exhausted your patience, my dear Harriet, and will no farther enlarge than to tell you I am affectionately your’s,

ADELINE BELVILLE.

P. S. Forget not to send me the account of your next visit to the Hermit as soon as possible.

Arundel

Mis

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Miss ABINTON to Miss BELVILLE.

Elmwood.

I Had just sat down to give my Adeline the account of our second visit to the hermit, as I shall still call him, when your last letter was brought me: the perusal of that determined me to proceed with my recital immediately; but first let me thank you for the two letters now before me. My Adeline is the best of friends. How often have I blessed the happy day that brought us acquainted! I well remember the appearance of you and Miss Somners, the morning you came to Mrs. Wellford's, engaged my infant affection, and I wished to be esteem'd by you. I succeeded in that wish, and soon became the selected favourite of both. Oh, my admired Miss Belville, how pleasingly does my memory dwell on that innocent and happy period! I could write for ever on it. But I forgot; you are impatient to hear more of the venerable recluse. On the appointed day, which was last Monday, Sir James attended us to the hermit's habitation. At the farm we left the carriage, and proceeded on foot to the sage man's residence. When we came to the entrance of the thick wood, my mother was half afraid to go on when she found the path so very narrow; however we proceeded, and
soon

soon gained the open part of the wood. Her surprize and delight were equal to ours at the first sight of those rude beauties here collected, and she stood for some time gazing at them with astonishment. The old gentleman was setting on the same stone where we had first seen him. He arose and walked towards us: "My children, said he, I thought it long since I saw you; you are heartily welcome to my humble house; I have reflected on our last interview with pleasure; it delights me to find I was not deceived in you. My good young lady, (continued he to me) the sight of you has already raised my spirits, that were before at a very low ebb." "I am happy, sir, answered I, to add to your content by any means: give me leave to introduce my mother." She advanced towards him: he took her hand with the utmost respect; "Receive, madam, said he, the congratulations of an old man on the treasure you possess in this lady." "My Harriet, sir, answered she, is indeed the best of children, nor would I resign her for the greatest earthly treasure. I am happy to find she has obtained the regard of so venerable a man, and hope she will profit as she ought by your advice." "I thank you, madam, answered he, for allowing me to look on this amiable girl as my daughter; I shall ever rejoice in the flattering distinction; but

will you not favour me with your company in the house? I hope you mean to pass the day here?" "We do, sir, answered my mother; and lest you should not be provided for so large an addition to your family, I have brought some provisions with me." He ordered his servant to prepare the things we had brought, and we followed him into his peaceful dwelling, which was in the most perfect order. We seated ourselves in the parlour, and after some general conversation, the sage old man addressed us——

"I promised this young gentleman and lady to relate the reasons of my retiring from the world: I suppose this lady (turning to my mother) was informed of that engagement, and most likely is desirous of hearing my detail. (She bowed) I will oblige you, my amiable guests, said he, but first I must beg of you to walk into a part of my palace which you have not yet seen." He arose, and led us through a variety of small paths to the opposite side of the rock: here the stream flowed more gently, and in many places hardly crept. We passed a great part of it, and came to a cavity entirely free from water, at the mouth of which was rolled a large stone. The sage removed it easily, and stooping a little, entered the cave, bidding us do the same. We did so, and having gone half a dozen yards through a kind of passage,

passage, we came to the open part of the cavern, which was very extensive, though I did not discover it 'till our conductor had struck a light. When the candle appeared, the rock seemed built of ten thousand brilliant compositions; the jutting-out pieces of shining stone, which were apparently hanging from the sides of the rock, made a light more beautiful than imagination can form. The roof of this charming place is very lofty, and seems as if cut out in various shapes. In one part the glittering top appeared tumbling on our heads; in another it was smooth and clear as liquid crystal. In the midst of the cave was placed a small mat, on which stood a table with globes; a book and lamp lay by them. The old gentleman smiled at the amazement we discovered, and lighting his lamp, the rock seemed in a gleam of light. When I wish to retire from the world, said he, and the common appearance of nature, I seek her in this cavern; the garb she wears here is so different from that she ordinarily appears in, that it agreeably varies my contemplations on her power, and not only my eyes are delighted by the beauties of this cave, but my ears are enchanted with the most entertaining musick. When I am silent, you will hear it likewise."

He ceased speaking, and listening attentively we could distinctly hear the guggling of water

water from the outside the rock; the warblings of various birds in the wood, which the echo of the cave clearly presented to us, completed the harmony, which delighted us all. Sir James observed, he could not help imagining he was in the residence of Echo. "Truly, my son, (answered the venerable man) that idea is well suited to the place; no one but Echo and myself, I believe, ever inhabited it. I sometimes hold a conversation with the nymph, who clearly repeats what I say; if you will walk to the top of the cave you will find it so." Sir James walked to the upper-end, and audibly said, "Come hither, Miss Abinton." A soft clear voice repeated the words, dwelling in a slow cadence on the last syllable. I believe we should have admired the beauties of this romantic spot all day, had not my mother intreated the hermit to favour us with the history he had promised. After pausing a little, he began as follows:

"My story is far from entertaining, but as you are desirous of knowing it, I will begin without any apology. The name of my father I shall conceal under that of Mortimer: he was bred for the church, and no greater ornament to his cloth ever lived. I do not remember my mother, but he has often told me she was an amiable woman. He was possessed of a good living, and had no child but me, whom he

intended for holy orders. My education was superintended by my father, who was himself an excellent scholar; his affection for me made him imagine I was a prodigy of sense. The capacity I early discovered, occasioned him infinite satisfaction; and he often used to say he believed no man alive was more perfectly contented than he was. When I had taken orders, I returned to my father, for whom I did duty as he was then very old and infirm. For more than a twelvemonth we lived in the peaceful retirement where I received life, enjoying every moderate pleasure, and particularly that of relieving the wants of our fellow-creatures, when the repose of my life was broken, by a young lady, whose father had lately come to the possession of a small estate in the village. I saw Miss Edwards at church, and was not proof against her charms. She was the loveliest woman I had yet beheld, and I quickly found I should be miserable without her. We visited them, and the beauty of Maria became greater in my eyes the more I saw of her. Her mind was as amiable as her person was fair; and I loved her with the most perfect affection. I found means of making it known to her, and had the happiness to hear her acknowledge her gentle bosom was not indifferent to me. I declared my passion to her, father and mine: they

they both willingly consented, and a near day was appointed for our union; but before it arrived, my amiable parent paid the debt of nature. The shock I felt at his loss, was infinite; and, for a great while, all the endeavours of my beloved Maria were disregarded, and I was indifferent to life; but Time, that great reconciler, made me again look forwards for happiness. After the death of my father, I had taken possession of the living in form, as it belonged to our family, and made many preparations for the reception of my wife. We were married, and I believe no man ever felt a more exquisite share of felicity than I did on this occasion. We lived in perfect harmony; each loved the other with infinite tenderness. Before the expiration of a twelvemonth, my dear Maria presented me with a daughter, the only child we ever had. This circumstance augmented our mutual happiness. I will call this girl Matilda, though that is not her name. You may think, madam, continued he, turning to my mother, this a ridiculous concealment, but I have long resolved not to discover my real appellation." "I beg, sir, you will make known no more than is agreeable, answered she, we think ourselves particularly distinguished by your confidence, and would not on any account, render the communications you favour us with, the least painful." "You

are very obliging, madam, said Mr. Mortimer, and I will no longer detain you from the residue of my history. When my Maria was recovered, the care and education of our little Matilda engaged her attention as well as mine. Her growing beauty delighted us, and we discovered in her infant mind the seeds of every virtue; we were her only instructors, and she more than paid our pains by the proficiency she made in every thing that was taught her. At the age of fourteen she was the most accomplished girl I ever met with. I marked with pleasure the softness of her disposition. She had a turn for serious speculations, which I studiously cultivated; her heart was the seat of humanity; no creature ever so insignificant escaped her tender care, if it stood in need of assistance. As she was the delight of her mother and me, so was she the admiration of the whole village. With her years her mind and person both improved. At eighteen she was generally thought a beautiful woman. As this fair one is now, so bloomed forth Matilda, the joy and comfort of my life as well as of Maria's. The situation of the parsonage house was very pleasant, and the walks about it delightful. Matilda frequently walked alone about the environs of it, as she was fond of rural exercises. My wife and I sometimes went with her, but oftener she was alone. I

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observed for some time a kind of melancholy set on the features of my child, which I in vain intreated to know the cause of. One evening I met her early going to take her usual walk; she had Thompson's Seasons in her hand, and was intently perusing this beautiful part of it:

*But happy they, the happiest of their kind,
Whom gentler stars unite, and in one fate
Their hearts, their fortunes, and their beings blend.*

When she had read the page, she shut the book, and sighing put it in her pocket; her eyes were fixed on the ground, and she appeared to shed tears. I was alarmed, and approached her with the utmost tenderness: "My dear Matilda, said I, what causes this uneasiness I see in you? why will you not trust your truest friend?" "Alas, sir, answered she, I am ashamed to tell you, my uneasiness arises from such a trifle, no more than the loss of my squirrel, who died this morning; I know I am very weak, but I cannot help being sorry for my little favourite." "If that is all, answered I, you shall have another. Call not your concern, weakness, my Matilda, you had long been used to its company; and that you should regret the death of it, is by no means wonderful. You are all softness and gentle humanity, my good girl, but I will not detain you from pursuing

your walk ; I cannot attend you, as I left your mother not quite well : farewell, you will not stay late." I embraced the darling of my heart, and walked from her ; I observed she stopped, and looked after me some time, and appeared to wipe her eyes ; however I would not increase her low spirits by returning, and therefore went home to my wife, to whom I related what had passed. She told me she feared something more than the loss of her squirrel caused the uneasiness of Matilda, as she had long observed it, but did not chuse to mention it, lest I should be made unhappy. Talking in this manner, we passed our time till near nine o'clock, when we grew uneasy that Matilda did not return, as she seldom stayed out so late. My wife was almost distracted with a thousand fears ; nor was I much better, though I strove to appear more composed on her account. Ten o'clock came, and we heard nothing of her. I dispatched servants and neighbours every way about the village. My wife was in fits, I knew not what to do, and by chance walked into my daughter's chamber. I saw a letter lie on the table, directed for me ; I tore it open, and the contents were so impressed on my memory that, at this distance of time, I can repeat them to you. His agitation at this place was excessive." He walked up and down the cave several times ; at last sitting down,

he went on, addressing himself to my mother.

“ The letter, madam, contained these words ;

“ How shall I tell my beloved and much honoured parents they may perhaps never behold their Matilda more ? A fatal prepossession draws me from their house and protection. Before this reaches their hands, their ungrateful daughter will be far from them, and in the possession of him who has long had her heart. I am bound by the most solemn oaths not to disclose the name of him I fly with ; but be assured he is a gentleman, and one that loves me with the fondest affection : he has promised to proceed with honor, and make me legally his, or I never would have given way to the impulses of my heart, though it adores the man I leave you for. Ah, pity and forgive my weakness ; the combat was too strong between duty and love, and I was unable to resist the instigation of the latter, nor could I fly the persuasions of a beloved and suppliant pleader. My heart is torn with anguish at the thoughts of leaving you ; but ere you know its confessions, I shall have quitted this dear spot of my birth. When I am married, I will return and throw myself at your feet for pardon ; that once obtained, I shall be perfectly blessed : you will not blush to look upon the object of my love. At present he dared not hazard a disco-

very of himself, as his friends would have opposed his marrying a maid so humble as your Matilda, and I knew you never would have suffered a clandestine union. Ah, my dear parents, once more let me sue for your forgiveness, which will be only wanting to compleat the happiness of

MATILDA MORTIMER.

"Ill-fated girl, exclaimed I, then thou art undone! What will become of my poor Maria? Ah, cruel Matilda, thou wilt destroy thy mother!" I hastened to my wife with this letter, and found her tolerably recovered. I read it to her with all the tenderness I could, and softened the stroke as much as possible. However, with all my care, it had like to have been too much for her. I strove, by every argument I could think of, to assuage her sorrow, though I was almost deprived of reason myself, by the shock her flight had given me. We could not discover by every enquiry we made who the villain was that had deluded her, nor do I know to this moment; all we could learn was, that she certainly met a man, disguised as a countryman, about two miles from the house, every evening, and sometimes twice a-day; that the very night she made her escape she was seen several miles from the village with the same man, in a post-chaise and

four.

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four. This confirmed my misery; my dear Maria never held up her head afterwards. We passed ten months, nor ever heard in all that time the smallest tidings of our deluded child. My wife was evidently declining, which almost drove me to a state of distraction. I took every method in my power to find out the hapless Matilda; whom I pictured to myself in the utmost distress, but without success. The situation of our minds for six months longer is not to be described. My wife was reduced to so low a state, that her life was despaired of; she had the best physicians in the country to attend her, but all would not do; her heart was broke, and eighteen months after the flight of my ungrateful child, I had the loss of my Maria to lament!

“My dying wife intreated me, if ever I should find Matilda, to pardon and protect her. I promised her I would, but never after did I see her. The place of my birth and scene of my past happiness had now lost all its charms, deprived of what I held dearer than myself; I therefore put a curate into my living, whom I could trust, and determined to seek some solitary residence, where I might end my days without observation. To the man I appointed to succeed me in my parish, I imparted my scheme, and gave to him one half of my living, the other he was once a year to

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convey to me by the means of the woman you saw, who was a servant of my wife's, and begged to attend me in my retirement. Accordingly, with a heart almost broke, I took leave of my once beloved village, and with honest Susan set forth to seek the most secluded part of the world. We passed through many counties before I found a place to my mind; at last I came to this spot. The melancholy gloom that appeared in this wood, was well adapted to the frame of my thoughts. The cottage where I now live had formerly been the habitation of a woodman, and was greatly out of repair. I purchased it at a small expence, and made it fit for my purpose. The humble furniture you see about it was bought by Susan at a neighbouring town, and when my cot was finished I fixed myself here, with a firm intention of ending my days in the midst of this wood. I often wrote to my curate, and begged him to make every enquiry after my lost Matilda, and if he succeeded, to assure her of a father's love and fond forgiveness; but he has never heard of her from that day to this: he constantly writes to me once in three months, as was our agreement. In ten years that I have lived here, I have never been disturbed by any one, 'till Sir James and this young lady found out my habitation the other day: her likeness to my

Matilda,

Matilda, caused an undescribable emotion in my heart; I wished to behold her again; I feel for her all that tenderness I once lavished on my ungrateful girl, who so cruelly fled the protection of a father for a vile seducer. Such, I fear, was the villain she went with. Had she been married, I should have heard from her; but alas! now perhaps she is no more."

We thanked the venerable Mr. Mortimer for the entertainment he had given us, and sought, by every method in our power, to banish the remembrance of his misfortunes. We quitted the cavern, and returned to the cottage, where we found our dinner ready: we passed the rest of the day very agreeably. In the evening my mother proposed taking our leave, which we reluctantly did. I promised to see him often. Sir James regretted it would not be in his power, on account of his leaving the country so soon. He took an affectionate leave of us. With concern we quitted his solitary dwelling, and returned to the wood, all charmed with this agreeable old man, and affected with his misfortunes. I fondly hope the regard he entertains for me, may be the means of making his concluding days happier than they have been for some time. My Adeline may be certain no endeavours of mine shall be wanting to accomplish this de-

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fired end, for I regard him with the utmost veneration. Sir James, who is going to leave me next week, is very desirous I should often see Mr. Mortimer, and hopes in time to persuade him to quit that sequestered spot, and mix once more with the world; but this is a distant consideration. I must bid you adieu, my amiable girl; Sir James waits for me, and as our time together is so short, I cannot make him uneasy by absenting myself longer from him.

Ever your's,

HARRIET ABINTON.

Sir JAMES THOMPSON to Captain FREEMER.

Ashley-Park.

BEfore this you have received my two last letters, giving you an account of our discovery of Mr. Mortimer, and his relation of his life. Upon my word, Fremer, he is a man of infinite merit; I would give the world to contribute to his happiness, and if it was possible to restore his Matilda to him, I know not what I would not do to accomplish it; but I fear he never will experience that satisfaction. However, my Harriet, of whom he is extremely fond, will in a degree supply her place.

* These Letters, which are only a repetition of Miss Abinton's, are omitted.

In my last dispatches I was so full of this adventure, that I had not room to take notice of a very absurd part of your letter, which was that relating to the Marquis de Reviere, who, I grant, is a very accomplished nobleman; but is that any reason he should make an impression on the heart of Miss Somners? Upon my soul, Charles, you hardly deserve the love of that noble girl for your injurious suspicions. I am happy she does not know them: it would be serving you right to tell her what a pretty fellow she has bestowed her affections on, and for whom she has gone through so much; who in return suspects she will withdraw her regard, and give it to the first agreeable Frenchman she meets with.

For shame, Fremer, do Louisa more justice, and believe her incapable, as she really is, of changing. Let me hear no more of your fears, if you have not an inclination I should inform Miss Somners what an opinion you have of her. I am sorry you cannot be in town to meet me, where I shall be at farthest next Tuesday: my Harriet will soon follow me, or I should not have resolution to go at all. If, it was not for her, I believe I should go, melancholy mad in this place among these teasing women. Miss Betty grows every day more ill-natured, and there is hardly any such thing as bearing her. What an altered creature has

love.

love made of me! Formerly, the three months I used to pass at the Park were hardly supportable; and now I have contentedly spent twice that time there; and was it not for my charmer's coming to London, I should not desert it all the winter.

A few days ago, we had a card from Sir Robert, that he and all the family would spend the following day with us, if we were disengaged, as they heard I was going to town, and they would not omit paying their respects once more to me before I left the Park. Miss Betty was out of the way when the message came, and my eldest aunt sent word she should be glad to see them, of which she informed her sister Betty as soon as she returned, with the greatest mildness. Not satisfied with the information, she demanded the card in a haughty tone; "For I suppose, said she, Sir Robert was not vulgar enough to send by word of mouth." When she had read it, with a look of the utmost dissatisfaction she proceeded; "upon my word, Miss Thompson, I think you might have consulted me before you had absolutely engaged them; but no, to be sure, I am to be disregarded, and treated as nobody: I suppose this affront was at the instigation of you, Miss Sukey." "Truly, sister, answered the other, it was not; Sir James answered the message: the civility was chiefly intended for him; nor do I believe he ever

once:

once thought of you." "So, fir, (said she, turning to me with a sufficient quantity of rage collected in her countenance) it was you that intended to insult me by this neglect. I have engaged myself to drink tea with Miss Newton, who would never forgive my disappointing her; as she is the most regular woman in the world."

"The most formal, madam, you mean, answered I, or she would never think of taking offence at a trifle like this, and on such an occasion too; but single ladies in general, after they come to a certain age, are very petulant: indeed I hardly know one instance to the contrary, except that before me, bowing." "Do not think to please me with your flattery, Sir James, cried she, I will not hear my friends abused by you or any one; therefore, unless you hold your tongue, and treat both me and Miss Newton with proper respect, I will send for Joseph to turn you out of the room."

"Oh, your servant, Miss Betty! (said I, laughing) I have wished a long while to know who was your champion, and now I have discovered; I conjectured a young lady of your accomplishments was not without a knight to spread about your fame, and now I find Joseph is the happy man. You see, my dear madam, (continued I to my aunt, Sukey) the reason of this lady's not permitting Joseph to come into the parlour the day we went to Rose-farm,

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was,

was, for fear, the tenderness of his glances should discover their amour." "Amour, sir! (repeated Miss Betty, exalting her voice) do you insinuate I have an amour with my own servant?" The other ladies burst out laughing. Taking her hand, and putting on a grave face, I proceeded: "Hush, hush, madam, you will certainly go farther than you wish; to be sure every body must allow Joseph is a pretty, genteel, handsome young man; and if a lady had an affair with such a one, it would be no great matter; keep your own counsel, aunt Betty, and nobody will suspect you, upon my soul they won't; and as to myself, I would not for the world encounter Joseph; I should be crushed in a moment; therefore I will not put you to the trouble of calling him, but hop off while I am in a whole skin."

I took up my hat, and making a low bow, left the ladies to contend alone, and walked to Elm-wood to spend an hour with my Harriet. She was writing to Miss Belville, but came down immediately. As our conversation consisted only of tender subjects, and I would afford you no entertainment, I will not write it. I staid with her till it was quite dark, and at parting engaged her to be at the park the next day. On my return, I found Miss Betty had quarrelled with both her sisters, and was gone to her own room very angry. We did not attempt

tempt disturbing her, and she did not chuse to favour us with her company without sollicitation; therefore she made not her appearance that night. The next day I was preparing to attend Miss Abinton, but was prevented by her early visit to the Park. I was surprized to see the dear girl enter the room before the breakfast things were taken away. "My dear Harriet, said I, why did you walk? I was just going to order the horses for you." "To save them that trouble, Sir James, answered she, I came thus early; the morning was so fine I thought a carriage quite unnecessary: as I knew your affection would have provided the chariot for me; once in my life I ventured to disappoint you." I kissed her hand, and led her to my aunts, who received her with the utmost affection, all but Miss Betty, who had not condescended to speak one word to any body all the morning, and now answered Miss Abinton in a voice hardly audible. When they had done breakfast, the ladies begged my Harriet's pardon for leaving her, but they should hardly have time to dress. "I would not on any account detain you my, dear madam, (said she to Miss Thompson) I shall find some method of amusing myself till you return; or shall I attend you and help you to dress?" "No, I thank you, my dear, (answered my eldest aunt) Sir James will entertain you till we return, and

and I dare say you have enough to talk of."

"O no doubt, cried Miss Betty, Miss Abinton came on purpose to have a private conversation with your nephew; you need make no apology for leaving them together." This malicious speech called the blood into my Harriet's fair face, and she was ready to cry; however, the summoned courage to answer her: "And can you blame me, madam, for my partiality for a man to deserving, and one whom you yourself are so fond of? I glory in my affection for Sir James, and would avow it to the whole world." "I cannot thank you as I ought, answered I, but my whole life shall speak for me." Miss Betty arose, and casting a contemptuous glance at us, left the room. When she was gone, the elder lady apologized to my charmer for the rudeness of her sister, and begged Miss Abinton to impute her ill behaviour to the anger she had against me; then telling her, next to me, she should ever regard her, left us to ourselves; as did my aunt Sukey with the same assurances.

My Harriet and I passed two delightful hours together before any of the ladies returned from the labours of the toilet, and in that time I had fixed on a plan in my own mind to be revenged of Miss Betty's ill-nature. When I saw her, I found it would do, and waited impatiently for the arrival of our company. At

length

length they came. Miss Abinton was rejoiced to see Emilia, who expressed the same satisfaction. Our conversation was, as usual, nothing very great, the chief orator being Mrs. Sydley, who has no great powers that way. Before dinner we took a walk in the Park, and I informed Mr. Sydley how Miss Betty had behaved to my Harriet, who is an infinite favourite of his, and he readily engaged to assist me in any scheme of revenge I could form. I told him the most effectual method of mortifying her would be to tear the apron she had on, as she valued that more than any thing in her possession; accordingly how to effect this was the matter. He proposed going boldly to her, and pulling it by force from her sides; but I knew her too well for that, and therefore we settled it otherwise. He was to engage her attention at the window, while I tyed the end of her apron to the tail of a favourite dog, and then pinch the animal. Accordingly we returned to the house to execute our project, leaving Miss Abinton, Emilia and Mr. Arthur in the Park. Miss Betty was talking to Miss Arthur very seriously: upon our entering I could hear the name of Harriet mentioned; she was relating the circumstance that had happened, with an hundred aggravations. This spirited us on, and I whispered Sydley to lose no time. He advanced to them, and taking

taking Miss Betty by the hand, "Come, ladies, said he, we must not suffer you to exclude us: Miss Thompson, at that window you will see as fair a sight as ever struck your eyes." Fortunately Mrs. Sydley engaged Miss Arthur, or I could not have followed them to the window. The dog was standing by his mistress, and with little trouble I placed the string properly, and retired unperceived. Mr. Sydley trod back upon Pompey, which caused him to move with precipitation, and took with him in mistake all that corner of the fine lace apron that had been encircled with the string: the dog howled, the lady screamed, and my revenge was complete.— "Bless me, madam! said I, Pompey has run away with part of your apron; I dare say he meant to resent your behaviour to Miss Abington this morning, and so destroyed your favourite." Sydley stooped down to look at the ruin he had caused, when Miss Betty, mistaking him for me in her passion, hit him a violent box on the ear. He arose and bowed; the company laughed, and the lady was so ashamed of what she had done, that she left the room. We declared to the whole assembly why we had acted so, and they all approved it. In the midst of our detail, the fair author of the mischief returned; and being told how her cause had been conducted in her absence, gently
reproved

reproved us both. When we were summoned to dinner, Miss Betty was enquired for, but she had left her compliments, for Sir Robert only, and was gone to Miss Newton's. This did not give much concern to any person present. We passed the remainder of the day very agreeably without her. In the afternoon, Arthur took me aside, and informed me of his love for Emilia, and the uncertainty of his situation as to a return. I persuaded him to be comforted, for, if I had any penetration, he was not indifferent to the lady. This put him in high spirits, and when we parted he was determined to make his passion known to her. He promised to write to me, and let me know how he proceeded. I shall rejoice to hear he is happy; he is one of the worthiest fellows in the universe. The whole party took a very genteel leave of me. I attended my Harriet home, and spent the evening with her and her amiable mother. Miss Betty refused to see me at my return, and ever since she has preserved a most formal distance.

What a parcel of stuff have I wrote you, Fremer! but I have no rational employment here, except conversing with Miss Abinton and writing to you; however, I will impose no longer on your patience. You shall know when the day is fixed for my coming to town; 'till then, adieu.

JAMES THOMPSON.

*Colonel MEDWAY to the Right Honourable the
Earl of ARUNDEL.*

Southwell-Castle.

AS I know it will be an alleviation to your own sorrows, Arundel, to hear I am happy, I set down to inform you my Charlotte has promised to be mine. Words cannot convey to you the smallest idea of my joy: this promise was made, by the intreaty of my uncle, in her first visit to the castle. Had you seen with what inimitable grace she gave me her hand, you would not wonder at my adoring her. Sir William says he never saw so lovely a woman in his life; you know he is a violent admirer of beauty, and that of Miss Duncannon strikes him as uncommonly captivating. Ah, Harry, how has her generous assurance repaid all I ever suffered from her neglect and fancied indifference! She has ingenuously avowed her love, and declares she often wondered at my blindness in not discovering it before; but though she owns I am dear to her, "yet, Medway, (said she the other morning, as I was walking in the gardens of the Castle with her) you must not expect I should be all sighing and tenderness; no, I mean to love rationally, and to let the world see I have some life and spirit left, though I have given my
heart

heart to a worthy man." "My adored Charlotte, answered I, adopt what method you please, you shall never meet the smallest contradiction from me; I have too many obligations to you, ever to be uneasy at your innocent gaiety again; the promise you have given me, on which I know I may depend, makes me entirely happy; and to your own goodness I leave the performance of it." "Why that is right, Medway, said she, I do love to be treated generously, and not be teized into a thing; your behaviour since that promise has endeared you more than ever to me, and I think we shall in time make a good sort of a jogging-on couple; and in return for your kind assurance of never contradicting me, I promise you no man shall ever have it in his power to make you uneasy on my account, as I will not give them encouragement; see, Colonel, how much I regard you, that I can deliberately resign the crowd of pretty fellows before they think of resigning me." "No, my Charlotte, answered I, still remain the general admiration; suffer the gay flutterers to swarm about you, nor imagine, after what has passed between us, I should feel a moment's pain at their power; to know your heart, is to have a firm reliance on it." "Why this is still better, Medway, said she, smiling; if you go on at this rate, I shall put myself

myself in your power sooner than I intended, and by that means encrease your own to the most unbounded sway, my dear Charlotte."-----"Will you talk so a twelvemonth after the knot is tyed, George?" "My whole life, Miss Duncannon, shall be one expression of gratitude and love." "I believe you, (said she with the most lovely seriousness) nor shall mine be wanting in tenderness, be assured, Medway; though I may have often appeared giddy and inconsiderate in your eyes, yet I could not be seriously cruel or unjust. Whenever I am your wife, my whole endeavours shall be exerted to make you as happy as you merit, and I flatter myself we shall both be exquisitely so. The reading of Miss Belville's affecting narrative has made a serious impression on me; her sufferings and patience amazed me, and I resolved to imitate them humbly. The generous frankness of her conduct to Mr. Grenville, and the happiness she enjoyed in consequence of that frankness, made me condemn my behaviour to you: indeed the apprehension of your going abroad, joined to her behaviour on that occasion, first began to make me think, and the knowledge of her former life compleated my detestation of my own conduct. I reflected, if it should please heaven to call you hence, as it did Mr. Grenville, what days of happiness I had deprived

deprived myself of, merely to please the blameable levity of a moment, I had frequently made unhappy the man I loved, and one who entirely deserved my affection; who had, besides his own merit, the approbation of all my friends to recommend him. I saw my former behaviour in a proper light, and determined to make every reparation in my power; it remains for you to decide in what manner I have succeeded." "Amplify, my beloved girl, (cried I) you have more than overpaid real sufferings by this generosity; what then shall I say, when all my uneasiness arose from my own petulance, and not your misconduct?" "I find, Medway, (answered she) you are to be trusted; this open confession has not made you arrogant; for the future you shall have no reason to complain of my conduct. Perhaps the natural mirth and liveliness of my disposition may lead me to laugh at you, but do not resent my inconsiderate conduct; I shall soon return to a proper frame of thinking, and take myself to task for you. The sweetness of Miss Belville, and her excellent understanding, will confirm a habit of behaving with tenderness to you, as it first inspired it; and in time, when I have conquered what I think wrong in my own heart, and compelled these little sallies, in which I have so long indulged myself, to yield

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to the dictates of reason and discretion, I will be your's."

I sought to persuade her she was every thing I wished her at that moment, and begged she would not defer my happiness on ideal improvements. She stopped me short---"That you love me, Medway, (said she) would be nonsense to say I doubt: I believe your assurances, and am happy in your attachment; but whenever I give my hand, which I always intended, to you, if your affection survived in spite of my repeated trials of it, I determined to merit it, and to that determination I will adhere; therefore seek not to make me change my resolution, that will certainly turn out to our mutual benefit." Thus did this generous woman talk; oh, Arundel! can you imagine I was not almost mad with extacy? indeed I was. I never thought to have found in my Charlotte such exalted sentiments, amiable as she was: yet her conduct lately has amazed me! She intends to go to town soon, and has given me leave to attend her. My uncle, tho' he continues ill, will not suffer me to forego that happiness on his account: he says, was he in my place, he should be ready to run any man through the body, relation or not, who would attempt detaining him from the company of so lovely a girl, let the occasion be what it would; "and had I known the perfections of your mistress, my dear George,

George, (said he) when I sent for you to come down here, on account of my damned gout, why, upon my soul, I would not have done it, that's all." You know Sir William's singular method of expressing himself when he is pleased, and he has been in one continued good humour ever since the first visit Miss Duncannon paid to the castle. Amid all this stream of happiness, do not think I am unmindful of you and Sir Edward, indeed I am not; the conflicts you have undergone affect me severely, and yet, my friend, the trial was necessary; it has given peace to the best of female bosoms! the lovely Adeline can now enjoy your friendship; her long-wished-for happiness, in your resignation of her as a lover, is now complete. What would not a man undergo to give a moment's satisfaction to the heart of such an angel, long torn with the cruelest disappointments, and stabbed in its tenderest affections! Yet, how nobly does she conduct herself under all her calamities! with what patient resignation! rejoice that it is in your power to contribute to the happiness of this inimitable girl! Let Sir Edward receive consolation from the same reflexion: she will ever regard you tenderly as friends; what a distinction! to be the friend of Miss Belville, is a satisfaction superior than to possess the love of any other woman. The generosity of your behaviour, my Lord, as

well as Sir Edward's, meets my warmest approbation; yet I cannot avoid lamenting the waywardness of your destiny. Adieu, Arundel; I shall not hear from you again while I am here, as our stay will be short. Present my tenderest respects to Mrs. Duncannon, the lovely Adeline, and Sir Edward; the same attend you from

GEORGE MEDWAY.

Miss BELVILLE to Miss ABINTON.

Myrtle-Grove.

I THANK you, Harriet, for the history of Mr. Mortimer: what a variety of misfortunes is human nature subject to, unlooked for, and unexpected! Even in the midst of our fancied happiness they come. The sudden loss of his mistaken daughter, on whom his happiness was fixed, was indeed a severe stroke. I wonder not that he retired from a world, grown unpleasant to him: I would do so too, my friend, was it not for the fortune Heaven has trusted to my care: in a secluded life my diffusive charity must be bounded, unless I trusted it to the disposal of others, and I should not think I did my duty, if I was not personally to relieve the sigh of misery. It has pleased heaven, for wise purposes, no doubt, to call from me my earthly happiness, and to leave me single alone to stem the

the storms of life. Had Mr. Grenville been spared me, we should together have trod the rough, as well as smooth paths we met with, and by a tender participation, have supported each other under the various calamities to which our nature is subject. But infinite wisdom ordered it otherwise; early released him from his load of clay, and fixed him in an eternity of happiness. I still remain an inhabitant of earth, largely endowed with what the world calls enviable blessings, an ample fortune in possession, and a prospect of a still ampler. Thus fettered, I cannot follow the bent of my inclinations, but must remain in the haunts of men, to discharge my duty to my fellow-creatures, which the treasure I am mistress of enable me to do. It would be a satisfaction too great, my Harriet, for thy Adeline to live in a peaceful seclusion, like Mr. Mortimer, where she might think on her beloved Augustus, and dwell on his virtues unmolested by the forms and absurd customs of the world.

Where pensive mem'ry might delight to rove,
O'er the past scenes of happiness and youth;
With pleasure dwell on Grenville's matchless
love,

His early worth, and undissembled truth.

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There might she shed unseen the trickling tear,
Save by the feather'd songsters of the grove ;
Lift' to the nightingale that warbled near,
And sigh, responsive, to her tale of love.

“ Ah, hapless bird ! (thus might the mourner
say) ;

Here view distress, how far surpassing thine !
Leave thy melodious melancholy lay,
And silent hear the sad detail of mine.

Go, Philomel, and sing in pensive strain,
My much-lov'd Grenville is for ever gone !
Say to thy sister-warblers of the plain,
His loss you tell, and thus harmonious moan.

While I with mournful steps will seek his
tomb,

And mark with rev'rence where he peaceful
lies ;

Tho' cropt thus early, like a rose in bloom,
His soul, unfetter'd, soars above the skies.”

This thought will calm the storm within my
breast ;

Peace will return, by resignation given ;
When in the grave this body sinks to rest,
My lov'd Augustus I shall meet in heaven.

I have.

I have permitted my ideas to have way ; nor shall I make the least apology to you for those lines. Sallies of this nature often relieve my mind when oppressed with melancholy, and I never check them. Was I desirous of the world's applause, perhaps I should not give way to these little poetic starts ; but as that is not the case, I write either in prose or verse, just as my inclinations prompt. To you, my indulgent Miss Abinton, I scruple not to send any thing in this way, as I well know, though so good a judge, you will not make an observation to the disadvantage of the foregoing lines, but esteem them as your Adeline's. As a retirement so well suited to my serious disposition cannot be followed without swerving from the rule that I have laid down, which is to benefit and make happy as many of my fellow creatures as I can, I am and will be contented without it. The only thing I will indulge myself in, is living at Belville-Park, when Mr. Somners and my Louisa return. I can there pursue the extensive plan of benevolence I have formed to myself, and follow the excellent example of my dear father. I have in a degree followed it ever since it has been mine, and never was so long absent from the Park as lately, though I take care the inhabitants of the village shall feel my loss as little as possible. The people I have fixed there,

are humane and good ; and, I believe, strictly true to the trusts reposed in them. This made me more readily submit to the desire of Mr. Somners in coming to Mrs. Evelin's than I should have otherwise done ; and as he made a point of my residing in Portman-square, during his absence, I did not chuse to oppose his inclinations, but with pleasure coincided in them.

I sat down with an intention of telling you we leave Myrtle-Grove the day after to-morrow, therefore direct your letters to the metropolis. I intended to have wrote this piece of information first, but other ideas ran away with my pen. No one thing in my return to London gives me pleasure, but the prospect of seeing you there. Delay not your journey, my Harriet, but let your next letter fix the day of your departure from Elm-Wood. Mrs. Evelin is extremely happy that you will favour us with your company ; and is much obliged to me for the pleasure I have procured her. I think I shall soon hear from Louisa, indeed I ought before ; but I find the ships have been detained by contrary winds, and are after their usual time. I long to know more of the accomplished Marquis. I have had a letter from Fremer ; he says he is all impatience to see me, to talk of his Louisa, and a thousand other things ; but Sir Richard does not intend to
come

come to London yet, to the great mortification of poor Charles. I shall be glad to see him, as I am the only person to whom he dares speak of Miss Somners; and I well know, not to be able to talk of a beloved object, is very painful. Mrs. Duncannon and Lord Arundel are returned to town. They went two days after the departure of Sir Edward. My lord took a tender leave of me, and promised to see me as soon as I came to London. He desired, though he had given up his claim to me as a lover, I would permit him to attend me to public places, and not allow any one else that privilege, except Sir Edward. I assured him I should ever look on his company as an honour, and with joy accepted his offer of attendance to what public places I frequented. This put him in good humour, and we parted very well. Charlotte and Colonel Medway are to meet them very soon in London. By the way, she has promised to give her hand to the Colonel, and he is happy beyond expression. I always thought Charlotte would act commendably in respect to him; and I rejoice in this circumstance on her account as well as his. The letter she wrote to her mother on this occasion, was a very pretty one, though her usual gaiety appears in many parts of it. I know she will make him happy whenever she gives him her hand; and therefore feel the utmost satisfaction in her

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promise.

promise. I shall commend her in the highest strain for her behaviour, by which she has made her whole family happy; and she flatters me with saying my approbation will compleat her felicity.

Mrs. Evelin wishes to be in town, as she expects her husband's arrival soon after her's. She says she is very impatient to introduce me to him, as she knows the pleasure he will feel in contemplating the perfections I am mistress of. "He loved your father, Miss Belville, said she, and will, I am sure, rejoice to find the daughter of his friend so fair and accomplished a lady." I thanked her for the partiality she entertained for me; and said I should be happy in the approbation of Mr. Evelin, who, as a friend of my father's, would be intitled to my veneration and respect. Ah! Harriet, how little did Mrs. Evelin know, when she was setting me out in the most extravagant colours, she gave no pleasure to my heart, nor vanity! the latter has been a great while laid asleep: I never was vain of any thing except the affection of Mr. Grenville, and that I was deprived of. Sir Harry has appeared dejected for several days: I enquired the reason of it this morning after breakfast, as I really thought him ill. "No, Miss Belville, answered he, my uneasiness arises not from illness, I wish it did; but will you allow me

me to inform you the cause of it?" "Certainly, sir, answered I; and if it is in my power, I will alleviate it." "Generous girl," said he, taking my hand, you and you only are the cause." "Me, sir! answered I with an air of surprize; how can I cause your unhappiness?" "Am I not going to be deprived of your charming society, madam, that I now enjoy without restraint? You will not see me so often in London, and when you do, perhaps it may be in company with numbers, and I shall not have any opportunity of entertaining you as now. Has not the man who is going to be deprived of the conversation and company of the most lovely woman in the world, enough to complain and be uneasy at?" "Oh, is that all the reason you have for melancholy, Sir Harry? I conjectured it was much greater: you are very obliging to set so high a value on my company, but I cannot think it deserves it. I shall always see you either in town or country with pleasure, as that is the only return I can make for the many obligations you have conferred on me." "But that is not the only return I aspire to, Miss Belville," answered he, looking stedfastly in my face; my wishes extend much further." He paused. "Explain yourself, Sir Harry; I do not understand you." "Say, rather you will not, madam: your tender friendship, Miss Belville, is what I demand,"

mand, such as you bestowed on Lord Arundel and Sir Edward." "As the brother of Mrs. Evelin, Sir, you will always be regarded by me with respect, and, for the many instances I have received from you of civility, with that degree of friendship I always bestow on those who honour me with particular distinction." "Strange! unaccountable!" he said to himself, and turned the discourse. He quickly regained his former cheerfulness, and chatted on indifferent subjects.

Farewel, my dear Harriet; present my compliments to your mother and Sir James, and believe me your ever affectionate

ADELINE BELVILLE.

Miss SOMNERS to Miss BELVILLE.

Montpelier.

IN compliance with the promise I made to my Adeline, I will regularly proceed to inform her of all that happens to her Louisa. At the time appointed we went to the Marquis's house, and were received with the most cordial friendship. Some days passed in a variety of amusements; every hour discovered to me more amiable qualifications in the young Marquis; his whole study was to give me pleasure from the time we first came to this house to the present day, which is now near three weeks. Nothing

thing in that period happened worth giving my dear Adeline an account of; our days were constantly spent in partaking of the entertainments provided for us by young de Reviers; my father was delighted with his assiduity to oblige, nor was I less so. This morning after breakfast he begged me to take a walk with him in the gardens, which are very noble. I immediately obliged him. For some time we talked on indifferent matters; at length, sighing, he addressed me thus: "My dear Miss Somners, what exquisite pain shall I feel when you return to England! I never have been so entirely happy as in your society, nor do I suppose I ever shall again. I wish, madam, I could persuade you to make a visit to the convent where my sister is; it would give me singular satisfaction to introduce you to her." "You are very obliging, my Lord Marquis, answered I; such a visit would make me extremely happy; I have a great curiosity to see your sister, as well as to reside some days in a convent. I am flattered by the concern you politely say you shall experience when we return to England, on my account. I look upon myself as peculiarly distinguished in your esteem; and my regret at leaving your family, where I have met with such uncommon regard, will be at least equal to your's." "Alas, Miss Somners, (said he sighing, and taking

my hand) I apprehend not; mine, madam, will surpass imagination; no comfort shall I find in this house, or any of its environs, when you are gone; but it will not be so with you; the joy of meeting your friends and admirers again, joined to the sight of your native country, will entirely banish de Reviers from your thoughts." "Indeed, my Lord, you do me injustice; my heart is too grateful ever to lose the remembrance of your friendship both to my father and me; it is wrote in indelible characters, and will never be forgotten. I shall rejoice to see the dear spot that gave me birth; how infinitely dear to me! My friends too are chiefly there, nor can you wonder the idea of beholding them again causes this joy to my heart. I have many much-loved friends, my Lord, in England, and it was with infinite regret I left it; nothing but the health of my father would have induced me to do it, but that made it necessary; for all the many tender ties I had to keep me in my native land, with joy I left them, and crossed the seas with him, but had no expectation of meeting on foreign shores the kindness and hospitality that I have been honoured with: the grateful remembrance will ever be pleasing to me as long as I have life." When I had ceased speaking I looked on the Marquis, not finding him answer: his eyes were fixed on the ground, and he seemed buried.

buried in a profound contemplation: he sighed several times, as if very uneasy. I did not disturb him, but accurately observed his every motion. At length, finding he did not recover himself, I feared he was ill, and taking him by the arm, "My Lord, said I, are you not well? what causes this thoughtfulness?" He suddenly looked up, and kissing my hand, "Louisa, (answered he) my dear Louisa! forgive my rudeness, but I knew not what I was about; I am not happy; something hangs on my heart that wants a vent, yet dares not discover itself; say, can you pity me!" "I can, my Lord; but if you are unhappy, why not inform the Marquis of it? he is the best of fathers, and will do every thing in his power to remove your uneasiness, if that is possible."

"It is not in his power, Miss Sommers, were it in his inclination: but why do I trouble you with my concerns? once more forgive me! if you please we will talk again of England, which seems the most agreeable subject to you." He looked at me steadily; the utmost penetration appeared in his face. I could not help blushing; the idea of Fremer presented itself to my imagination, and I fancied he could read my thoughts. "'Tis as I imagined," said he, sighing; then taking my hand, "How lovely does that blush make you appear! but say, madam, will you not permit me to see you

you in England?" "Certainly, my Lord, and we will endeavour to return the obligations you have laid us under in France." "I thank you, Miss Somners; and, if I have your permission, I will mention the scheme of going to Paris to see my sister very soon." You will oblige me, my Lord, by so doing."

He was in much better spirits, and evaded any farther particular discourse. He gathered me several beautiful flowers during the remainder of our walk, which continued near half an hour. We only talked on indifferent subjects, chiefly on the manners of England, which the Marquis is fond of enquiring after. I was quite happy to see him in more elevated spirits, and sought to entertain him as much as I could. He was delighted with the pains I took to oblige him, and returned me his thanks in the gallantest manner. As the weather was warm, we sought the protection of a retired grove, and coming to a bench, we seated ourselves. The Marquis took my hand, and was relating a little amour that then engrossed all the attention of Paris, when we were surprized by the sight of Madame de Bellfleur. I should have introduced this lady to my Adeline before, but as I omitted it then, I will do it now. She is the widow of a gentleman who held a profitable employment about the court, quite the Frenchwoman, gay, volatile, and

and sometimes indelicate; yet she has a large stock of good-nature to counterbalance the faults of her disposition. In her youth, the Marquis tells me, she was reckoned very handsome, but I do not see the least remains of beauty. She is upwards of fifty, though, by the sprightliness of her behaviour, you would not imagine her more than five-and-twenty; she is a favourite of the old Marquis's, and a near relation. She generally spends a great part of her time at his house, though now her visit was entirely on my account. This lady professes to be very fond of me, and treats me with the most flattering distinction. I return it as far as my disposition will allow, but she is too volatile to suit my taste exactly; she is continually laughing at the young Marquis and me for our gravity, and tells him he is more than half an Englishman; and as for me, I am the express representative of my nation, as solid and sedate as the oaks that guard our boasted isle; though she acknowledges she never saw an English countenance whereon seriousness appeared better than on mine.

You see, Adeline, by the outlines of this lady's character she is by no means suited for the gravity of thy Louisa. She advanced towards us before she was perceived either by the Marquis or me. "*Votre serviteur*, my pair of considerers, (said she) have I discovered you
at

at last? and so, my fair English lady, I find your heart is not steeled against the grave part of the French nation, however it may remain unaffected by the gay.---Well, well; this will do: you were cut out for each other; I dare say you will neither of you smile during the honey-moon." Her insinuations made me colour exceedingly, and I attempted to say something, but I was in so much confusion I could not express a connected sentence. "Ay, ay, (said she) this pretty rosy hue convinces me how it is: well, my Lord and Lady, I shall tell your fathers of it, and we will have it concluded immediately." She was going:---
 "Stay, Madam de Bellfleur; (said the Marquis) you distress this lady. I am not so happy as you imagine; no, would to Heaven I were!" "Compose yourself, my charming Miss Somners, nor observe the raillery of this mad cousin of mine: we will all return together." "Ay, but do not imagine, my Lord, I am to be so easily cheated; (said she) No, no; I will trust my own penetration as soon as any thing, and I see how it is."
 "Upon my word, madam, (answered I) you are mistaken; the Marquis was only talking to me."---"Of love, my dear; (interrupted she) I will not stay to hear you tell fibs, but go and communicate my intelligence to those that will be glad to hear it." Away she ran. "What shall

shall we do, my Lord? (said I) Madame de Bellfleur will go and represent to the Marquis and my father what never had an existence, but in her imagination: I shall not be able to look either of them in the face." "Fear not, amiable Louisa, (answered the Marquis) my father is too well acquainted with Madame de Bellfleur, to give credit to what she says, till his own observation confirms it; and in this case he will not meet conviction." He observed me with the most minute attention, and seemed uneasy at the conclusions he drew from my behaviour, but took no notice of it to me. We returned to the house, and found Madame de Bellfleur with the gentlemen. She looked very arch; I blushed as deep as scarlet, but neither the Marquis nor my father took any notice of it by words, tho' they smiled at each other. The conversation turned on a variety of topicks, but I was in too much confusion to discuss any properly. Young de Reviers strove, by the most delicate politeness, to banish the restraint I laboured under, but he did not succeed. I was angry with myself for suffering an accidental circumstance, of no importance, to make me so seriously uneasy, and strove to recover myself, but I could not; I therefore arose, and saying I would dress, left the room with the greatest precipitation. When I got to my chamber, I reflected how many disagreeable

able circumstances the adventures of the day might give birth to: I feared the Marquis had a too tender regard for me; perhaps he might construe my behaviour into encouragement; then how Madame de Bellfleur might represent the manner she found us in the garden, distracted me: the idea of Fremer's sufferings, if a report of my favouring the Marquis should be spread, and reach his ears, involved me in a thousand fears, and shocking doubts. I took up my pen to relate what had passed this morning, and describe the situation of my mind: I know not what to do; alas, my Adeline! you are not here to advise me. I have no doubt but Madame de Bellfleur related how we were sitting when she surprized us, with an hundred embellishments of her own, to the Marquis and my father; and all my apprehension is, that an attachment between young De Reviers and me, would be agreeable to both. The old Marquis is doatingly fond of me, and my father is no less so of his son: he is always talking to me of his amiable qualifications. I cannot deny them; I know he is amiable; were he less so, I should not be so uneasy. What will become of me, if he really loves me? how shall I excuse my seeming obstinacy to my father? I dare not avow my affection for Captain Fremer; kind and indulgent as he is, he would yet start at the idea of a clandestine proceeding.

ceeding, tho' the happiness of his Louisa depended on it. His pride would take the alarm, and he would insist Sir Richard Freemer should be made acquainted with it. Would to Heaven he would return to England! his health is entirely re-established, and nothing but his friendship for the Marquis de Reviers keeps him at Montpellier: how far that friendship may lead him, I know not, for it seems increased; nay, by his own acknowledgment it is so: if the young Marquis should offer me his hand, I have but one hope, and that is in the difference of religion. My father is a staunch protestant, and they catholicks; from this circumstance my only comfort rises, and I think this would prevent a wish from him of a union with the family. I must leave you, Adeline, but I will again take my pen the first opportunity. I see the young Marquis walking in the garden with Madame de Bellfleur, in earnest conversation; I must dress, or I shall not be ready for dinner.

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I determined a week ago to have gone on with this letter, but was prevented by a variety of circumstances: however, I will now relate what passed in that time. The afternoon of the day in which the disagreeable encounter with Madame de Bellfleur happened, we had a
great

great deal of company, much nobility, and a very agreeable afternoon we passed. Not a word was said of the morning by any one, not even Madame de Bellfleur. The behaviour of young de Reviers was attentively polite, and that of the Marquis uncommonly affectionate. He introduced me to the gentlemen by the appellation of the English Rose, and desired them to produce a native lily worthy to be compared to me. My dear father was delighted with the attention I received, and all was harmony. Several parties of pleasure were formed for the ensuing days, and late in the evening the company departed. The next morning we took an airing, and came home to dinner. We were to go out in the evening to walk in some beautiful gardens. As I found nothing was said of the surprize the day before, I grew quite happy, and behaved in the same open manner both to the young Marquis and Madame de Bellfleur, as formerly: He too, had quite shaken off the melancholy that I had observed, and was infinitely sprightly and entertaining. I dressed for the expedition we were to make, rather more than usual; my gown was a peach colour, trimmed with silver, and tho' contrary to the French custom, put on a hat, for I have not yet learned to bear myself without. The Marquis paid me many compliments on the appearance I made, as did his father.

ther. Madam de Bellfleur observed, if it was not for that poking hat that hid the prettiest face in the world, I should be the finest girl in France. "That gown, mademoiselle, said the old Marquis, gives an inexpressible *je ne sçai quoi* to your person, that is enchanting. For my own part, I must not trust my eyes long in contemplating your beauty; for I find it is too powerful to be withstood." "It is indeed irresistible, my Lord," answered his son, sighing, and folding his arms; he continued looking at me with the utmost attention; while my father and the old Marquis were talking together at the window, the carriage drove up to convey us to the gardens: the young Marquis started, and taking my hand, led me down stairs. "Ah, Miss Somners, said he, stopping and looking in my face, what will become of me? I am a lost man!" He spoke these words with an air of wildness that frightened me. "What is the matter, my Lord? answered I, with the utmost trembling of voice, I hope nothing has happened to give you fresh uneasiness." "There has, indeed," replied he, with the utmost dejection. "If I can relieve it, my Lord, I will with all my heart." Involuntarily I said this, without reflecting how he might construe the words. I was hurt to see him affected thus; and they spontaneously fell from my lips. He looked
on

on me a moment with visible pleasure : “ And would you relieve it ? said he ; ah ! beautiful Louisa, you only can.” This answer convinced me of my error ; and I would have given worlds to recall what I had said. I had no time to reply, as my father and Madam de Bellfleur were close behind us. The Marquis’s countenance expressed how happy these few inadvertent words had made him all the evening.

The gardens we went to see were delightful ; but the mistake I had committed, hindered me from enjoying them. Nothing could exceed the tender politeness of De Reviers ; he watched my every look. We met several of the ladies and gentlemen that drank tea with us the day before : our party was very large before we had been long in the place. The Marquis begged I would favour him with my company to take a turn in a myrtle and orange grove at the bottom of a long walk. To have refused, would have been affectation, as I walked alone with him so often before ; I therefore consented, but asked my father, Madam de Bellfleur, and the old Marquis, if they would not go. The gentlemen declined it, and Madam de Bellfleur protested she would not go in a grove without a Cecisbeo to herself, and so she would stay where she was. Finding none of them would accompany us, I gave my
hand

hand to the Marquis, and tripped away. The company had nearly deserted the gardens, when we entered them: nothing in nature could be more beautiful than this romantic place; the trees were entirely myrtle and orange, that shed forth a perfume rich as Arabia's sweets. Through the midst was a noble walk, fifteen feet broad, and half a mile in length; there were numbers of smaller walks that joined the great one in all parts of the grove, the bottom of which was terminated with a large piece of water: in the midst was a dolphin that flung the liquid crystal high in air; the coolness arising from the water made it charming. The beauty of nature and art in this grove were both united, and wore their most agreeable apparel. The heavenly canopy above us appeared in all its splendor. The moon, which had just burst from behind a veil of clouds, shone forth the queen of the bright hemisphere, with her attendant stars. I looked with an eye of amazement at the grandeur of the scene. The silver shade cast over the green of nature by the radiance of the moon, gave a certain softness to the trees and plants, beautiful beyond description. The sparkling drops of water that ascended, appeared like so many diamonds; and, altogether, the whole place wore such magic solemnity and beauty, that one might imagine it the abode of some enchanter. The Marquis

made many sensible observations on the scene we contemplated. At length, after a short pause, "Miss Somners, said he, how will these now lovely works of creation appear to me, when you are gone? you are my only comfort. Your conversation and society would make delightful the most dreary desert, and your absence rob a paradise of its perfections! I can no longer deceive myself, madam; I thought the sensations I felt for you, arose merely from friendship, and what every man must experience for such superior merit; but I find, on a strict examination, the latent cause was love. Yes, charming Louisa, I love you with the fondest passion; my heart that has hitherto withstood the powers of all the united beauties the court of France can boast, bows before your's, and yields without resistance. Speak, dearest lady, and tell me I have not offended you by this declaration; and, if you wish my life, deprive me not of hope." Though I expected this declaration, Adeline, yet, when the Marquis ceased speaking, I was unable to answer him. He imputed my silence to resentment, and went on; "Alas! madam, I find I have excited your anger by this discovery of my love; but my life will expiate my offence. I cannot survive your hate. My heart is so firmly attached to you, its elected choice, that your cruelty will quickly end its conflicts." He folded his arms

arms with the utmost despair, and fixed his eyes on my face with a look so full of woe, I could hardly support it. As soon as I could find articulation, I answered him: "Mistake me not, my Lord, but impute this silence more to grief than resentment. I am not angry: love is involuntary; but I am really concerned I have it not in my power to make a proper return to the affection with which you honour me; for I will not insult you by pretending not to believe what you say; I know you sincere, and grieve at the trial you must go through in conquering your own feelings, for I never can be your's; therefore, let me intreat you, if you value my peace of mind, to stifle this unfortunate partiality before it attains any height." "If I value your peace of mind, Miss Somners! said he; alas! if the forfeiture of my temporal happiness would secure it, I would not hesitate; but oh, reflect before you determine my fate: say not I must conquer my love; it is impossible, indeed, Louisa, it is; sooner could I forego my nature and turn savage! Suffer me but to hope, or I shall not preserve my senses. Perhaps time, the uncommon love I feel for you, and the constant endeavours I will exert to oblige you, may at last induce you to pity me: do not say it will not. For heavens sake, do not drive me to despair." He took my hand within his that

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trembled with his agitation; the big tears stood in his manly eyes, which were fixed on me in painful expectation of what I should say. I felt for him, and paused. I sighed at the necessity there was to hurt him. Surely, had Fremer been present, he could not have blamed me. Pity kept me silent; at last, summoning all my resolution, I spoke. "The real regard I have for your Lordship, induces me to be as open and explicit in this case as is in my power. I depend on your honour, on your humanity I depend, to grant what I desire. I cannot, my Lord, return the love you feel for me: such is my situation, I dare not explain myself further. Call your resolution to your aid, and timely get the better of an affection that can be productive of nothing but misery. Think not what I say proceeds from affectation or vanity; I am influenced only by a desire to make you happy. Urge me not then to flatter you with hopes that never can be realized; indeed they never can. It pains me to the heart to be obliged thus to afflict you (seeing him look with the utmost despair), but the occasion demands it; deceit would be criminal, where the future peace of your life depends on my behaviour. Could any man in France have inspired me with love, it would have been you, but that was impossible. I feel, and ever shall feel for you, the strongest
senti-

sentiments of esteem, gratitude and veneration." I stopped a little, but not finding him answer, went on: "One thing I have to beg, and that is, my, Lord, you will not make my father acquainted with your sensations in my favour; he would, perhaps, interest himself for you, and distress me infinitely to refuse him; but it would make no difference: could my heart be affected by your merit, there would need no solicitation, no interest, to make me acknowledge it; but as that is impossible, it will only add to my uneasiness, in declining the honour you intend me, to be intreated by my friends to accept it." "Alas, Louisa! (answered the Marquis) it is not in my power to obey your injunctions! Mr. Somners and my father are already acquainted with my passion, and flattered me it would be successful: by the means of Madame de Bellfleur the discovery was made; she represented in what manner she found us in the garden, and the Marquis, as soon as you left the room, taxed me with my love. I acknowledged the happiness of my life depended on your favouring my addresses. Both Mr. Somners and the Marquis rejoiced in my attachment, and promised to assist me in the completion of my felicity, as far as they could. Your father, madam, informed me he was very sure your heart was disengaged, and he had no doubt the merits I was possessed of,

(so he was pleased to say) would make a tender impression on it; that done, his joyful consent would follow. The Marquis confirmed my happiness by saying the same, and I hoped every thing from their interest with you. The gentleness and soft complacency you ever treated me with, induced me to believe I might at last be blessed with your affections; that idea increased my passion to such a degree, that I could no longer command it to silence, but by suffering it to pass my lips, have ruined my short dream of happiness, and now am awake to misery. My vanity, which led me to believe I was not disagreeable to you, has been my bane, and I am lost to every comfort; for I swear to you, beautiful Louisa, that I love you with a passion next to idolatry." "Tell me how I shall extricate you from the present dilemma? I will do every thing but give up my love, that is impossible." "Still, madam, suffer me to imagine you do not hate me." "Hate you, my Lord! (answered I, my eyes streaming) oh! if you could see my heart, you would not fear my hatred: it is torn by a thousand conflicts, and yet I cannot, dare not, trust you with its situation." "Why do you weep, Miss Somners? (said the Marquis, with an air of sudden frenzy, catching my hand) do you suppose I can support your tears? Ah! no; they are daggers to my heart! they tear
me

me like scorpions! you must, you shall be mine. Tho' a whole host stood with drawn sabres at my breast, I would grasp thee to the last moment of existing nature! Your father authorises me to hope, and nothing shall force me to resign my love. What means this tender conflict in your bosom? you do not hate me; perhaps, in time, esteem may turn to love; that dear idea would support me under torments; shall I then give you up? no, never, never! ask it not, Louisa: I wish not to know the situation you hint at, be it what it will: I never will resign my hopes but with my life." His eyes flashed fire: I was ready to sink with terror, but suffered his passion to have way, before I thought of answering him: he grasped my hand with a convulsive agony. I begged him to be more composed when I found his frenzy continued, but all in vain; he swore he never would be calm again, unless I gave him leave to hope. What could I do, Adeline? why, nothing but weep, which I did, plentifully. Madman as he was, I could not think of acknowledging my love for Captain Fremer to him; besides, the hazard of its being discovered to my father distracted me! Every persuasion I was mistress of I summoned to my aid, but nothing would do; he disregarded my tears, that had at first excited this gust of passion, and behaved like a man deprived of his senses.

senses. "My Lord, (said I) if you have not a mind to see me fall senseless at your feet, recollect yourself: what can I say, or do, to abate this fury, that terrifies me to death?"

"Do I terrify you? (said he) I terrify myself too: my brain is on fire! but say you love me as a friend, or a brother, and I will become calm as yonder moon, by Heavens I will." "I do, my Lord, love you as a brother, and ever shall: but let us return; they will wonder at our stay." "Louisa, my dear Louisa, (said he, with a more composed voice) I thank you. You say you love me as a friend and brother: you will love me better, by-and-by, my dear girl, I know you will: don't say you won't, if you mean not to drive me mad."

I dared not contradict him, and suffered him to lead me out of the grove to the other company: I could not conceal my uneasiness from the observing eyes of Madame de Bellfleur, who coming to me, and taking my hand;

"Mademoiselle, (said she) what causes those traces of sorrow on your fair cheek? I believe you are the first lady that would cry because she was beloved by the most accomplished nobleman in France: *sie donc, ma chere*; dry up your tears, and freely own, without any English reserve, that the handsome Marquis has put your heart in the most agreeable flutter you ever experienced."

"Indeed, Madame de
Bell-

Bellfleur, (answered I, sincerely) my heart is far from being in an agreeable flutter; it is intirely the contrary." "*Mon dieu!* (exclaimed she) what, when De Reviers has just been making a declaration of love for you! why, thou art the most unaccountable girl that ever I met with! Have you English women no vanity? Why, there is not a lady in France but would jump out of the highest window in the world, to be loved by the Marquis! he is the admiration of all the nation, Mademoiselle, but yourself; tho' I really believe you are an hypocrite, and are playing your English tricks upon me." I was prevented answering, by my father, who taking my hand tenderly, enquired if I was not well. I blushed, and trembled; "Not quite, sir; I shall be glad to go to bed: I find a violent pain in my side." The young Marquis started, and looking at his father, "My Lord, why do you not order the carriage? (said he) Miss Somners is not well." He flew from us, but soon returned, telling us the coach was ready. "Cruel girl, (whispered Madame de Bellfleur) how he adores you! yet how little you regard him!" He took my hand, and lifted me into the coach, and without any ceremony, seated himself by me, telling the man to drive home directly. "Will you not give Mr. Somners and me a place, my Lord?" (said the old Marquis, smiling) or shall we follow by way of at-

tendants?" "Insufferable rudeness! (said Madame de Bellfleur) I insist you get out of the coach, De Reviers, and hand me in as you ought: why, you are as negligent as a Dutchman; this lady will convert you into a very Simon."

"Come, come, madam, (said the Marquis) we must spare him a little, and consider his situation: for once allow an old man the honour of placing you safe in the carriage."

"At your intreaty, for once, my Lord, (said she, laughing) I will look over it; but if he repeats his impoliteness, I shall make it my business to publish it at every house thro' Paris."

The Marquis seemed not to observe what she said, but sat with his arms folded, and his eyes fixed on the ground all the way home. I retired immediately to my own apartment; he followed me to the door, and taking my hand, with the most pity-moving accents, "Louisa, (said he) will you pardon me? Ah! did you know how I love you, surely you would. On you my life, my happiness depends!" I saw if I contradicted his hopes, he would relapse into his former violence, and therefore, with the greatest mildness I could assume, I answered him. "I do pardon you, my Lord, and I hope, when you properly consider—" "Hush! (said he) not a word of that; I never will resign my hopes: you have confirmed my pardon, and I am happy; (he kissed my hand) angels

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preserve you, lovely Louisa!" He hurried from me. I threw myself on the bed, in the greatest distress of mind; "what will become of me? said I to myself: oh my dear Freemer! did you know the sufferings of thy Louisa, what would be your sensation?" I was interrupted in this soliloquy by the entrance of Madame de Bellfleur: I had not locked the door, and she came into the room unperceived by me. "Hey-day, mademoiselle! (said she, approaching my bed) what is it I see? Why all these tears and lamentations? I thought to have found you hopping about the room. De Re-viers sent me to you---" "Go to my adored Louisa, said he, and tell her that my heart bleeds for her." I came to hear the whole detail of his first declaration: come, come, rouse yourself: what can have happened to cause all this uneasiness? This reserve is unnatural between women; confess your *tendre* for the Marquis, you may depend I will not tell him if you wish I should not. *Mon dieu!* here is a fuss indeed about an honourable affair! Why, had it been an amour of taste, you could not wish to conceal it more. If the Marquis had confessed a passion for me, old as I am, I should have been out of my wits for joy, and have told half the world of it. The found of "my Lady Marchioness," how agreeable!" I begged she would suffer me to be by myself, as
soon

soon as I could make her hear me: I promised I would talk to her any other time, but that then my spirits were so very low I could not, and intreated her, if she had any regard for me, to leave me for that evening. She shrugged up her shoulders in astonishment; "*Le diable!*" exclaimed she, you are enough to provoke one, but I am not acquainted with English constitutions: if all the ladies of your country behave as you do, when a declaration of love is made to them, I do not envy their admirers. However, I will please you for once, and leave you, tho' I know you will be eat up with the vapours. Shall I send the Marquis to you? continued she, laughing, an interview in your bedchamber would not be amiss just now." Saying this she left the room. Never was I happier than to see her shut the door: I arose, and locked it, and again flung myself on the bed, where I indulged, in all the luxury of tears. I have just heard a ship is going for England directly; I will send this, and continue to write the residue of this week, and all that may happen afterwards, as I have opportunity. Let me hear from you, my Adeline, as soon as possible: give me your advice what I shall do, tho' I must act without it, as no letter can reach me, in answer to this, a great while. My father sends his most affectionate love to you, and thanks you for your letter,

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as I do for mine. The old Marquis begs his compliments in consideration of his early acquaintance with you. Adieu, my beloved Adeline: that no more storms may happen to disturb your passage over the rough sea of life, but one perpetual calm gild your remaining days, is the sincere wish of thy affectionate

LOUISA SOMNERS.

P. S. I have not time to write to Freemer by this ship. Tell him I am well, and will let him hear from me as soon as possible.

Miss BELVILLE to Miss ABINTON.

Portman-Square.

BY the date of this, my Harriet will find I am once again in the noise and hurry of this great city. I felt a regret at leaving Myrtle-Grove, that I cannot describe. The dulness of town appears intolerable to me; besides I had many rural avocations there, well suited to my disposition. We have been in town three days, and have never seen Sir Harry since we parted with him, which was soon after we got to London. He attended us home, and then went immediately to his own house. How he can support himself in so long an absence, is amazing; but time does wonders. The gal-
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lant Baronet will be able to forego my amiable conversation for years ere long. I am interrupted: a letter from Louisa, I must break off to read it.

* * * * *

I send it to you, my Harriet. Would I was with our gentle friend to ease the conflicts of her mind in her present disagreeable situation. I feared the beauty of Louisa would create her many troubles. I know not what to advise her. Good and amiable as Mr. Somners is, yet I know him too well to wish her attachment for Freemer acknowledged to him. It would be the means of giving pain to her gentle breast, and perhaps involve her in difficulties. If my beloved guardian has a fault, it is in his priding himself on his family: not that he carries this to any blameable length; but in a matter where his daughter is concerned, I think he would be violent. He could not brook the love of his Louisa should be kept a secret from the family of the man she honoured with her partiality; and I fear its being so, notwithstanding the propriety of conduct observed by Freemer as well as Louisa, would be reason enough with him for insisting the attachment should be dissolved; especially, if Sir Richard made the smallest objection to her fortune, which would certainly be the case. I have often wished to remove this difficulty by
giving

giving Louisa half of mine, which is much larger than I want. But I cannot hurt the delicacy of Mr. Somners by such a proposal. I once mentioned it in the most tender manner I could to my friend; but she assured me her father would die before he would suffer it, nor would he ever consent to her marriage, unless it was particularly intreated by the family of Captain Freemer. The perfect knowledge she had of her father's disposition, made her adopt the methods she did, which, in my opinion, were truly laudable; and the very reasons that induced her to act thus, will prevent her from divulging the secret of her heart. I foresee many uneasy moments she will have on the Marquis's account. She will not easily persuade him to resign his hopes without informing him of her prior engagement; and the violence of his love and disposition would render such a step imprudent. I flatter myself the difference of religion may have some weight with Mr. Somners. Louisa may with propriety make that her principal objection. She is very stedfast in her own faith, and consequently, if she loved the Marquis, would feel many scruples to unite herself to a man of a different way of thinking in a point so material. I shall be all impatience for her next letter, which will most probably relieve the anxiety I experience for her. I hear Captain Freemer will

be in town in less than three weeks: I shall then inform him of as much of Louisa's letter as may make him easy, in case a report, as she fears, should reach him concerning her favouring the Marquis. Under the impulse of such an idea he may act very imprudently; therefore, to prevent any ill consequences from his passion, I will properly represent the real state of the case to him, and my advice upon it. Be so good as to return Louisa's letter, my dear Miss Abinton, with all you have of mine, as I mean to write very soon to her, and shall send the papers with my letter. Perhaps the few little matters that I have scribbled to you, may afford her some entertainment. I fear she will stand greatly in need of it. I am in hourly expectation of a letter from you, that may fix the time of your departure from Elm-Wood. If this should reach you before that circumstance is resolved on, let me hear something more of the agreeable Mr. Mortimer. I promise myself much pleasure in visiting his peaceful retirement next summer, when I am the happy guest of my Harriet; his conversation will be well calculated for the gloomy turn of my thoughts. Perhaps the melancholy of thy Adeline, and the knowledge of her former conflicts, may make him think less of his own. It would give me infinite delight to reconcile a man so venerable to the world. We will endeavour,

deavour, Harriet; and if we succeed, we shall be amply paid by having it in our power to soften the decline of weary nature, and see his last sands run down in peace. The joyful occasion that will bring me to Elm-Wood, will engage your attention so much, that Mr. Mortimer will not have your company so often as formerly. I will endeavour to supply your place, and try to engage his affection by every tender sentiment and filial attention. I should feel a painful sensation to be robbed of the idea that I may be esteemed by him. Tell him you have a friend, who has like him felt the keen hand of dire misfortune, and willingly would alleviate his by an affectionate participation. I should rejoice to hear he would bestow on me a degree of his regard, and I would strive to be deserving of it. I must leave you; Mrs. Evelin has just received a message from her husband, who is at Dover, and begs my company in the dining-room. I hear Sir Harry is there, which I suppose is one reason for my being sent for. Adieu, my amiable friend; affectionately I subscribe myself your's,

ADELINE BELVILLE.

Miss ABINTON, to Miss BELVILLE.

Elmwood.

SIR JAMES is gone, Adeline; I parted from him yesterday, and am just returned from visiting Mr. Mortimer. I will relate both circumstances to you, as nothing is so well suited to my present humour as writing, especially about persons so dear to me. Yesterday morning, as my mother and I were setting at breakfast, Sir James entered the library, dressed for travelling. I was not surprized at his sight, as he frequently visits me very early. After the usual compliments, "My beloved Harriet, (said he, taking my hand) I am come to bid you adieu." This a good deal hurried me, as it had been before determined he should stay and attend me to town; I therefore demanded the reason of his sudden departure with the greatest emotion. "My dear girl, said he, be not alarmed; no material affair of my own calls me from you, though it is of importance to the poor fellow on whose account I go to town; he was a servant of my father's, and saved in his family enough to live comfortably, but by the extravagance of a son, he is reduced to beggary. I was ignorant of his situation, 'till a letter I just received informed me of it.

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He is now in prison and very ill; his wife writes in great distress, that unless I will relieve them, she fears her husband will die for want of necessaries. To extricate them from this horrid situation, I quit my Harriet; no other thing in the world would induce me to do it." "Make not the smallest apology, Sir James, said I, the occasion demands your speedy departure. How much pleasure will the reflexion of this beneficent action give to your happy Harriet!--you will let me hear how the poor man does," "Certainly, my love; and one thing I have to petition both you and Mrs. Abinton for."-----"What is that?" (said my mother, after having expressed her approbation of his conduct in the highest terms)----"Why, madam, no more than that you will accept the use of my chariot while Miss Abinton stays in the country, and longer if you please; she will want it to convey her to Mr. Mortimer's, and I have a chaise and four at the Park to take me to London; therefore it is not the smallest inconvenience to me. I mean to come down time enough to attend my Harriet; and then, if you do not chuse to have it, we will take it with us." "I thank you, sir, answered my mother; on those conditions my child shall accept it; but I beg you will not hurry yourself to come down again for her; she will go very safe with your servants."

vants." "Would you deprive me, madam, of the most material joy of my life, said he, the company of this lovely girl? Do you imagine I would leave a treasure, so precious to me, undefended on the road? No; I always promised myself the happiness of seeing her safe to her friend, and I must not be disappointed." "You are all I wish you, my dear Sir James, answered my mother: how happy shall I be in two such children!" He kissed her hand with veneration: "Ah, madam, you oppress me with your goodness; the whole endeavour of my life shall be to deserve this excess of tenderness from you and my Harriet; I want words to tell you both how much my gratitude, my love, is engaged by your unmerited preference." He arose, and walked to the window to conceal his feelings. We were all affected; my eyes bore testimony to my sensations. Sir James soon recovered himself, and coming to me, "My Harriet, said he, no man living can be more sensible of his happiness than I am; the love of such a woman is a blessing I do not deserve, but for the future"—Hush, Sir James, said I, say nothing of not deserving my affections; you do amply: all I fear is, that my few accomplishments may not be sufficient to hold your heart to the end of our lives, in the same soft chain that binds it now." "Did you,

Miss

Miss Abinton, know your own value, said he, you would not doubt the continuation of my love; that will never be lessened; while life animates this heart, you will be absolute mistress of it: yes, when this fair face and captivating form have lost their attractions, still shall I love you with the same fond ardour as at present.” “Harriet, said my mother, you may believe Sir James: I see with pleasure, my children, your affections are engaged by the qualifications of the mind each possess, and on such a foundation you may reasonably build hopes of lasting happiness. But let us not detain you, Sir James, from the execution of your noble intention.” “I thank you, madam, said he, for reminding me; the time flies so quickly in company with my love, that hours seem but as moments.” He arose; my heart beat against my stays as if it would have broke its prison to have followed its best-beloved. He advanced to my mother, and embracing her with the utmost respect, “May heaven preserve you, excellent lady, said he, in health, ’till I see you again.” “God bless you, my son, answered she, be careful of yourself, and remember there are two hearts in the world whose peace depends on your safety.” She wiped her eyes, and went from him. He hastily folded me in his arms: “My love, adieu! (said he) weep not, my Harriet, I will

I will soon return and thank you for these tears; the time will quickly come when we shall be parted no more; when this dear hand is mine, no occasion whatever shall take me any where without you; my aunts will see you to-morrow afternoon; keep up your spirits, most beloved of women, for my sake keep them up." I could hardly find words to assure him I would, for my tears: after another tender adieu, he mounted his horse, and galloped quickly out of sight.

We were silent some time: at length my mother addressed me; "Compose yourself, my Harriet, said she, nor thus suffer a short separation to impair your peace: reflect, that you must meet with many partings more terrible than this, in your passage thro' life; learn then to fortify your mind against them: if you figure to yourself perfect felicity here, you will be disappointed; let your situation be ever so desirable, still causes of uneasiness will arise, when most unlooked-for. It is our duty, my love, to submit to trifling trials with firmness and resolution. Let your fond mother see that you can attain this desired frame of mind, and it will make her happy. I well know, without fortitude to stem the tide of adversity, we suffer ourselves to be borne away by the current; therefore I wish to see you prepared to support heavy evils, if it should be your fate to meet
 with

with them; and not yield your mind to things of no importance. When I see you again, I hope to find you have recovered your tranquillity." Saying this she left me; I took a solitary walk in the wood, and returned to dinner, tolerably composed. My mama strove to divert me as much as she could, never mentioning a word of Sir James. In the afternoon his servant came to know if I would have the chariot that day. I told them no, but should be obliged if they would get it ready early the next morning, as I meant to see Mr. Mortimer. Accordingly, at six o'clock to-day, I set out. My mother was not well, and declined going. I ordered them to drive me to the entrance of the wood, and then telling them to stop, said the morning was so pleasant I would walk a little. La Jeunesse offered to attend me, but I declined it, telling him I often walked there, and rested myself at a cottage not far distant; I might be absent two hours, and therefore he had better take the chariot to Rose-Farm, and bring it for me in that time. They obeyed, with the utmost respect, and I pursued my way to Mr. Mortimer's dwelling. I met the good hermit before I reached the cottage: he was agreeably surprized at the sight of me. "Welcome, my child, said the venerable man, this visit is uncommonly kind! how does your mother, and my son?" I related to him the departure

parture of Sir James, and the indisposition of my mama, that hindered her from coming. He expressed his concern in the most engaging manner; and by the best, and most sensible arguments, strove to reconcile me to the absence of my lover, and to quiet the apprehensions I had for his safety. I assured him I was convinced of my weakness, and would, for the future, behave with more resolution. We returned to his house, where he ordered breakfast to be prepared. Honest Susan set some plain cups and saucers before us, and brought some excellent bread and butter, which I partook of with infinite pleasure. "My child, said Mr. Mortimer, I must trouble you to make tea; little did I once think I should ever have so fair a companion in this solitude; but since I have known you, I am again pleased with life; the few visits you have made me renders your absence irksome, and I shall heartily rejoice when you come back from town." I assured him, the pleasure of his company was greater than any thing I should experience in the hurry and bustle of the great world, except one satisfaction; "and what is that, my child?" said he. "The society of a much-loved friend, Sir, answered I, one that has from infancy been the amiable companion and confident of my life; from ten years old to the present moment I have never had a thought concealed from

from this lady." "May I not know her name?" returned he. "Certainly, Sir; it is Belville; she is not only the best of her sex, but also the most beautiful; her life, like your's, Mr. Mortimer, has been full of trouble, and though little more than twenty at this time, she has sustained uncommon calamities, yet supports them with such philosophic resolution, as renders her the delight and admiration of every good mind." I then took your last letter from my pocket-book, (which I ought before to have thanked you for,) and holding it in my hand, went on; "I will read you this letter from Miss Belville, Sir, if you will give me leave." "My good girl, replied he, you oblige me infinitely; how much am I indebted to you for the amusement you are going to give me!" "But before I proceed, Sir, interrupted I, I must intreat your pardon for having infringed your injunctions by making your retirement known to my friend; I can depend on her secrecy; and thinking you would not be offended, I ventured to do it." "Offended, my dear Miss Abington! said he, far from it; if you thought the life and misfortunes of a poor old man, hid from the world, worth communicating, you did him honour, nor can he feel a moment's uneasiness, that his former troubles were told to a lady who has been familiar with adversity." Satisfied

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with that assurance, I proceeded to read your letter to him. When I came to that part relating to him, he seemed a good deal agitated; "and is it possible, said he, a man so long the sport of fortune, and an alien from society, should, in the latter days of his life, become of consequence to two blooming young creatures?" My amiable daughter, continued he, taking my hand, say to your friend, the grateful Mortimer thanks her for her gentle desire of contributing to his felicity, and shall rejoice to do it personally; but the letter of this young lady surprizes me; you say she has suffered much; of what nature could be the sufferings of a woman so young?" "No words would do her story justice but her own, answered I, and she promises to reveal her misfortunes to you; all I will anticipate of her detail, is, that her conflicts have arisen from love; but when you find how nobly she has supported them, you will admire my Adeline as much as I do." "I am content to wait, Miss Abinton, the arrival of this lady, to hear her history, said he; in the mean time, the prayers of a weak and infirm old man shall be offered for her and you, who have by kindness, truly uncommon, strove to make his misfortunes easier, and interested yourselves in his welfare." After near two hours longer spent in conversation, and advice from him, I took

my leave, and walked pensively through the wood, where I thought of Sir James, and what might be his employment at that moment; the good Mr. Mortimer's advice engrossed some of my meditations. I found the chariot and servants waiting for me: I desired them to return immediately to the wood, where we soon arrived. In the afternoon, the Miss Thompsons came; they behaved with great tenderness and consideration, especially the eldest, who said she infinitely regretted the departure of her nephew, as he was the life of the Park. Miss Betty observed, "to be sure, Sir James had great spirits, but for her part, she often thought him troublesome and noisy, but people differed in opinion." "They do indeed, sister, answered the second lady; and I will venture to say nobody will agree with you." This gave rise to a dispute, that will be far from entertaining to my Adeline, and therefore I will suppress it. The contest lasted till near the time of their departure, and the remainder was taken up in apologies to my mama from Miss Betty, for the rudeness of her sister, which she attributed to her insufferable ignorance; the other lady was as severe on the behaviour of Miss Betty, though with rather more temper; for the remarks she made enraged her sister to a degree of phrenzy; at length, to my great joy, they took their leave,

as I will of my Adeline, after assuring her, I am her ever sincerely affectionate

HARRIET ABINTON.

P. S. When the day of my departue is absolutely fixed, I will let you know, but that will greatly depend on the return of Sir James.

Sir HARRY EVELIN to Captain MONTAGUE.

Berner-street.

RECEIVE from my hands, Montague, the olive-branch; our recent disagreement is entirely obliterated, nor shall I again ever cast a thought that way. Enjoy your new-adopted opinions, if they make you happier, but for heaven's sake keep them to thyself, at least in regard to Miss Belville; thou might as well forbid the rain to descend, as me to forego my designs, and it would as soon obey thee; no, upon my honour, I could rather resign my life than my hopes. Every day I grow more fettered, for I every day discover more charms in the accomplished Adeline. You say you are desirous of knowing how I proceed; you shall, as you have agreed to my premised articles before the peace was concluded between us, and engaged no more to plague me about resigning

Miss

Miss Belville; as to any thing else, talk as much as you please. I had an opportunity of observing her behaviour before we left Myrtle-Grove, and had the satisfaction to find she felt a degree of pity for the regret I experienced in parting with her. After I had enjoyed the happiness of spending so much time in the same house where she resided, I was indeed infinitely distressed at leaving her, and could not hide it; I dreaded ten thousand ill consequences from our separation; she saw my concern, and imagining it arose from illness, sweetly enquired if I was not well; her tender accent, and harmonious voice delighted me, and I ventured to tell her the cause of my dejection arose only from the necessity there was of leaving the house that contained her; she put on an air of coldness that a good deal mortified me, and said if that was all, I should be soon reconciled. Finding this was no time to proceed farther, I dropped the subject, and assumed a great gaiety of behaviour that appeared to satisfy Adeline; she told me she should always think herself under obligations to me. Oh, Montague, how soon could she return them! however, this is an acknowledgment that will do no harm; I shall find some fit opportunity to unfold the secret of my heart to her; and if she will not relieve my misery, she makes me desperate, and must take the

consequence. Miss Belville's departure from Myrtle-Grove cast a damp over the whole village; not a poor inhabitant it contained but lamented the loss of her; she has endeared herself to every-body by her gentleness and sweetness; they all came to bid her and my sister adieu, with marks of real concern; the generosity of Adeline sent them to their humble dwellings with joy, and thankfulness. I never saw any woman in my life so universally beloved; nor is it to be wondered at; a benevolence of disposition like her's, that indiscriminately makes happy all who want her assistance, must render her the general admiration; by her bounty she encourages the good to pursue the narrow path of rectitude, and leads the bad to repentance by her clemency; and, in general, her innocent wishes meet success. She has often regretted the flight of Miss Smyth from the cottage, as it deprived her of the satisfaction she had promised herself in rendering her remaining days happy; but glad am I her benevolence succeeded not in this case; for the gratitude Fanny would have felt for her benefactress, most likely must have led her to discover the name of her seducer, as she stiles me no doubt, and then I had been in a fine situation. Upon my soul I tremble even now, to think how that cursed meeting might have ruined me, if I had not fortunately discovered
whom

whom Miss Belville visited at the cottage; but my good stars ruled that day, and led me thither to prevent the destruction of all my hopes; by the way, I have had a letter from the lady of Rushbrook Castle, who is full of her sorrow and contrition for her ingratitude to the charitable fair, whose name she is unacquainted with; I wrote an answer that I thought would settle her conscience, and threw out a hint, that I might see her in the course of a month. Harris tells me she is tolerably satisfied with her situation, and behaves well; I am glad of it, for if she did not, there would be a necessity for removing her farther. I wish the chicken-hearted Emilia conducted herself with equal propriety. I am sorry for her ill health, upon my soul I am; but what can I do, Montague? why does the foolish girl make such a fuss about a matter that cannot be undone? I wish you would write no more of her pathetic conversation; it occasions a disagreeable sensation that I cannot account for; I would readily resign half my fortune that I had never seen her; then what infinite regret had been spared us both! As for my boys, I will ever regard them with parental affection, and by my tenderness to them, endeavour to make amends for the happiness I deprived their mother of; all the contrition in the world will not restore her to her former situation. Why

no

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then

then does she imbitter her present hours by a vain, and therefore ridiculous lamentation ? but I have often wrote on this subject without effect, and therefore will say no more on it. Every thing, as I have frequently told her, that I can command, she shall be welcome to, and no more can I offer. We are every day in expectation of my brother ; my sister promises to engage him in my interest, as she supposes I have no views that point to any thing but matrimony ; I would by no means undeceive her, till I see how they may succeed, and if they are baffled, all may end in a sober wedding at last. I have seen Miss Belville only twice since we came to town, but all her motions are known to me ; not a look has escaped the vigilance of my emissaries. I find Sir Edward Wilmot is absent, on a visit to a relation on whom he has great dependance, but from him I have nothing to fear. Lord Arundel is very often at Portman-Square ; yet I am convinced he is not the favoured man, and so let him rest ; but if the behaviour of Miss Belville should change towards him, I shall not retain my pacific disposition ; however, I fancy nothing will arise from that quarter to give me uneasiness. Adieu, Montague, I am glad once more to call you friend, which title I hope ever to give you ; you shall know every incident that occurs worth communicating ; but my success depends more
on

on art than any thing else, and therefore the detail I shall send you will not be very entertaining.

HENRY EVELIN.

Sir JAMES THOMPSON to Miss ABINTON.

Harley-street.

My dear Girl,

I HAVE the satisfaction to inform you, I shall return with the expedition of love in the course of a few days to Elm-Wood; the business which called me from my Harriet is finished, and I fly to my happiness. I have the pleasure to inform you, the poor fellow that called me from you is now happily settled, and entirely extricated from his distress; I went to him the moment I got to town, and found him languishing on a sick-bed; I was much shocked, and asked his wife if he had been long in that terrible situation? "Almost two months, Sir," answered she. Poor Wilkinson knew my voice, and looking up, "heaven bless you, my excellent young master; are you so good as to come to this den to seek me! I knew your humanity would induce you to assist me, when you was acquainted with the miserable situation I was reduced to. Ah, Sir, I have

suffered much since I saw you ; my ungrateful boy has brought me to this distress." " Why, John, said I, did you not inform me of your circumstances before ? you might be sure I would have relieved you as much as one of my own family." " Alas, Sir, replied he, I well knew your charity ; but it was but very lately I found out where your honour was ; my wife by accident met one of your servants, and knowing your livery, enquired where you was, and being informed, she took the liberty of writing." " I am very glad she did, answered I, and if you think you can bear to be removed, I will get you out of this prison immediately." " Oh, Sir, said the poor fellow, grasping my hand, I cannot thank you as I ought ; but my prayers shall be offered for you as long as I live ; was my lady alive, how would she rejoice to see your goodness ! she always said your honour would be the most generous of men, and indeed you are so." I stopped the effusion of his gratitude, by enquiring what had become of his son, and how much he owed. After telling me the sum, he informed me his son had left him, as soon as he found he was put in prison, and that he heard he had enlisted for a soldier, and was gone abroad. Wilkinson shed many tears during his recital, and his wife appeared equally affected.

fectcd. I left them to go to the house of the fellow to whom they were indebted, and finding him at home, I told him I was come to propose an accommodation between him and John Wilkinson, who I found was considerably in in his debt. "I suppose, Sir, said I, you would compound for a trifle, for most likely you never will get your money of him, for to my certain knowledge, he has not ten shillings in the world." "As to that, young man, answered the grocer, I shall not give up the least of my right; and if the old dog cannot pay, he shall stay in limbo, that's all: but who the devil are you that pretends to propose an accommodation?" "Sir James Thompson, Baronet, Sir, replied I; a gentleman that you have had the honour of serving with plumbs and sugar a great while, but he will no longer give you that trouble, nor himself that of proposing a paltry accommodation; what does Wilkinson owe you?" "I hope your worship is not offended, says the muck-worm, nor will withdraw your custom for my being a little cautious; not that I would injure Mr. Wilkinson, or any other man, especially as I find your honour interests yourself in his favour; to be sure I was unwilling to come into any terms before I knew who I was speaking to; but I will do just as your worship, Sir

James,

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James, would have me." "Let me have your debt against Wilkinson," said I: he immediately produced it, and I paid him the money: "Come, Sir, continued I, you must go and discharge the poor fellow you have so long detained; and for the future learn more humanity. My coach is at the door, you shall go there directly with me." He would have evaded it, but I obliged him to get into the carriage, and we drove to the prison; he immediately discharged Wilkinson; and after receiving several reproofs from me, returned. I obliged John and his wife to get into the coach, and we all together drove to Harley-street; the poor fellow begs I will suffer him to spend the remaining part of his life in my service; and to make him easy, I have given him and his wife an apartment in my house, from which I shall not discard them, till they no longer merit my protection. Thus, my charming Miss Abinton, have I informed you how I have proceeded in this affair. I hope my conduct will be approved of by you and your amiable mother: to merit that approbation, shall be the study of my life. Though separated so little a while, I impatiently long for the moment that shall again bring us together; I will most certainly attend you as soon as possible; none of my friends know of my being in town, nor shall

shall I let them; I would call on Miss Belville, who I accidentally heard was in London, did I not wish to be first introduced to her by my Harriet; therefore, till you honour the metropolis with your presence, I must suspend my curiosity in seeing this extraordinary lady.

I will attend my beloved to take leave of the good Mr. Mortimer: Oh, my Harriet! if we could persuade that venerable man to quit his sequestered residence, and again dwell in the world, what an acquisition would his society be to us! nor am I without hopes but we may succeed when our happy union is compleated; his love for his newly-gained daughter, will lead him to wish to be constantly with her; nothing in my power shall be wanting to gratify his wishes; and by degrees we may draw him into society. Adieu, my dearest Harriet; my best respects attend your mother; believe me, my adored girl, your faithfully devoted

JAMES THOMPSON.

Miss

Miss BELVILLE to Miss ABINTON.

Portman-square.

I SET down to thank my Harriet for her last, and to inform her of the return of Mr. Evelin. The contents of your's, my amiable Miss Abinton, gave the most exquisite pleasure to my heart; you have secured for me the good Mr. Mortimer's friendship; and all that I have to fear is, that when he finds the qualifications thy Adeline is mistress of, falls so infinitely short of what your partiality has represented them, he will withdraw a great part of his esteem; however, I will trust to his goodness, and my own tender behaviour towards him, for securing his future regard; tell him this, my Harriet, when you see him, and with it present my most respectful compliments. You are, no doubt, curious to know how I like Mr. Evelin, and in what manner he received me; I will inform you. Yesterday his Lady had a letter from him, informing her he would dine in Portman-square if possible; she received the news with fashionable composure, and sent word to Sir Harry; who returned an answer, that he would be at our house to meet his brother: accordingly, about two he came, elegantly dressed, and in the utmost harmony of spirits. "Lovely Miss

Miss Belville, said he, after we had talked some time on indifferent subjects; how admirably white suits the delicacy of your complexion! every time I see you, I think it improved." "I have been so long used to your compliments, Sir Harry, said I, that they do not amaze me; I assure you, I never once thought of suiting my complexion when I put on this gown." "I believe you, Madam, answered he: how is it that with so little thought of exciting admiration, you inspire every man who sees you with such sensations in your favour!" "Far be it from me, Sir Harry, to wish any such thing; I only sigh for content, and not admiration, as I believe I have more than once told you." "My dear Adeline, answered Mrs. Evelin, surely in this particular you are to blame, to waste your youth and uncommon beauty in a single state, and to give such absolute negatives to all overtures of the tender kind; besides, a woman of your perfections should not be suffered to live to herself only; you are as great an ornament as any I ever met with to our sex, and peculiarly calculated to shine in domestic life; let some of your numerous lovers be successful, and make happy all your friends. I shall not fail to interest Mr. Evelin against your determined single state, and I hope we shall not

all

all prove unsuccessful." I looked towards Sir Harry, and saw his attention fixed with an appearance of anxious expectation. Mrs. Evelin seemed as if she wished me to speak; I therefore turned to her, and addressed her as follows; "that you are desirous of promoting my happiness, madam, I have many reasons to believe; the whole tenour of your conduct authorises me to think so; but, believe me, you take the wrong method of doing it; I have reasons, (continued I, sighing) to hinder me from marrying; reasons that are insurmountable. It has given, and still gives me infinite pain, to be solicited on this head; I have brought the Earl and Sir Edward to cease doing it, as I have convinced them it is not in my power to return their love: more than once have I talked with Sir Harry on this subject; with the utmost explicitness told him my heart can never yield to soft emotions; therefore, Madam, if you wish my peace, seek not to prejudice Mr. Evelin in favour of my marrying, as farther solicitation would only increase the regret I have already suffered from the same cause." I paused; "my dear Lady, said Sir Harry, as we are seriously talking on this subject, give me leave to say your aversion must arise from a strong partiality to some one perhaps below you, one whom you do not chuse to acknowledge."

acknowledge it for ; but what have you to fear ; dignified by birth, by fortune, and perfections of mind, and person unequalled, from declaring your sentiments in favour of this happy man, and raising him to a situation worthy the possessor of your heart ?” I smiled at this idea ; “ No, indeed, Sir Harry, I have nothing to fear from declaring my partiality for one who was the glory of his sex, and the ornament of human nature : I cannot raise him higher than he is, for I trust he now reigns in heaven, where one day I hope to join him ; my constant endeavours shall be to obtain that happiness, and live for ever with my Augustus. Will not my acknowledged partiality, Madam, now satisfy you that I cannot in justice, in honour, give my hand to another ?” “ My good girl, said she, this frank declaration has endeared you to me, and I revere you for it ; but yet, Miss Belville, your attachment to the memory of Mr. Grenville, should not interrupt the course of your duty while you stay below ; you was born for domestic happiness ; why then shun the chief comfort of life, that of loving, and being beloved ?” “ Ay, Madam, interrupted Sir Harry, with a frantic gesture, and drive the whole world to despair ; but you must, you shall change this determination ; as the man you love lives not, you cannot justify a life of celibacy

celibacy to him who gave you such beauty, such a mind, to excite love in all the world." "Nor could I justify, Sir Harry, my breach of faith to him who has commanded us to do justly, were I to yield my hand without my heart, which was only attached to one dear object, and will for ever remain so." "Ah, say not so, Madam! cried Sir Harry, unless you would drive me to madness." I was prevented answering by the arrival of Mr. Evelin, who entered the room with no very elegant air; his Lady met him, and received a cold salute; then shaking Sir Harry by the hand, he cast a look towards me full of scrutiny. "My dear, said Mrs. Evelin, you have forgot Miss Belville, she is so much altered for the better." "Truly, Madam, she is indeed, said he; a very angel, Sir Harry, upon my honour; give me leave fair Lady." So saying, he honoured me with a French salute on both sides my face. After many more compliments, we were seated; our conversation consisted of foreign topics; the disagreeableness of travelling, and matters of equal importance, till dinner interrupted it, which when we had dispatched, I made a motion to retire, telling Mrs. Evelin I would certainly attend her at tea; but I had letters to write. Mr. Evelin arose, and taking my hand,

hand, "Pardon me, Madam, said he, we must not lose you so soon; no Lady on the continent that I have seen is worthy to be compared to you for beauty; the flower of the world, upon my honour, Mrs. Evelin; I must have the pleasure of looking on it a little longer." As I found it would be in vain to attempt dissuading him from detaining me, I set down again, and, at his request, played and sung; here was fresh cause for compliment from the polite Mr. Evelin. While I was at the harpsichord, Lord Arundel came in, who was received as soon as the tune was finished with great politeness. "Have you heard from Sir Edward, Miss Belville?" said the Earl. "I have not," answered I. "Has your Lordship?" "No, Madam, at which I am rather uneasy." "I hope, said I, he is well, and has met with no accident." "The gentleman is very happy, Miss Belville, said Mr. Evelin, to have the finest woman in the world solicitous about him." "Sir, answered I, he deserves the solicitude of every-body, as he is one of the worthiest men living." "How kind my amiable Adeline, said my Lord, thus to express your sentiments of my friend! He would be exquisitely happy, could he hear you." "He has often heard me say as much, my

my Lord ; and I have had the satisfaction of seeing him pleased with it." " What must the man be, Madam, who was not ?" said Sir Harry, sighing. I bowed. " I came, Miss Belville, said my Lord, to know if you would honour Mrs. Duncannon and myself this evening with your company to the play. Garrick does Lear ; I have places at your service, and Mrs. Evelin's, if she will be of your party." " I thank you, my Lord, answered she, but the return of Mr. Evelin prevents my doing myself the honour of accepting your invitation. I was undetermined what to do ; my Lord arose, and taking my hand, led me towards the window. " Will you not make me happy, charming Adeline, in your company ? if you knew what felicity I experience when I am with you, surely you would not hesitate." " I will not, my Lord, answered I, smiling ; I will attend you in ten minutes with pleasure ; but I must get me a pair of clean gloves ;" he kissed my hand with rapture ; " Amiable girl, how you delight me !" I run up stairs, and put on a different cap, and stuck a few diamonds in my hair, and returned to the dining-room. " What kind expedition, said Lord Arundel, taking my hand ; how much am I obliged to you !" " I shall not see you again, Madam, said Sir Harry,

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Harry, this evening; allow me to wish you a great deal of pleasure." He turned from me with an air of mortification; I thanked him, and curtsying to Mr. and Mrs. Evelyn gave my hand to the Earl, and tripped down stairs; we got into his chariot, and drove to the theatre, where Mrs. Duncannon and another gentleman were before us. I am interrupted, and have no more time than to tell my Harriet I am her ever affectionate

ADELINE BELVILLE.

End of the THIRD VOLUME.

ERRATA in Vol. III.

Page 6, for person, read parson.
64, for death, read tyrant.
179, for qui, read quit.

